Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Williamson and Wilson, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony on behalf of the Beyond Toxics and The Walama Restoration Project in support of HB 2619A, which would ban the sale, purchase, or use of pesticide products containing chlorpyrifos in Oregon.

The effects of chlorpyrifos on animals and humans has been widely studied since the 1970s. There is no shortage of peer-reviewed studies describing how chlorpyrifos can kill birds and non-target insects, like bees and other beneficial insects needed for growing food and supporting ecosystems. (Christensen, 2009)

Chlorpyrifos can have devastating effects on children when they are exposed through inhalation or ingestion, but I would like to talk about the impact of chlorpyrifos on Oregon's pollinators and ecosystems. (Roberts, 2012)

Many people don't realize that entire ecosystems are upheld by the tiniest little creatures, like bees, butterflies, mayflies and birds. Over a third of the foods we grow in Oregon require pollination. Outside of agricultural crops, approximately 80-95% of the plant species found in our natural habitats require animal-mediated pollination. Plants are the foundation of all terrestrial food chains. The foliage and/or fruits and nuts that plants make are eaten by herbivores from elk to birds. Additionally, plants provide shelter and nesting habitat for many different animal species. Thus, in order to maintain the diversity of over 90% of our natural ecosystems, we need healthy pollinator populations to ensure that plants will live on to set seed for the next generation. (Ollerton, 2011)

Voting yes on HB 2619 to ban chlorpyrifos and transition to safer and more modern pest management options will benefit both natural and agricultural systems.

Sincerely,

Krystal Abrams
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Beyond Toxics

References:

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Roberts, James R, et al. "Pesticide Exposure in Children." *Pediatrics*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, Dec. 2012, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5813803/.

Ollerton, Jeff, et al. "How Many Flowering Plants Are Pollinated by Animals?" *Oikos*, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd (10.1111), 21 Feb. 2011, onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1600-0706.2010.18644.x