

May 8, 2019

Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 2619 A: *Prohibits sale, purchase or use of pesticide products containing chlorpyrifos*

Representative Holvey & members of the House Committee on Rules:

My name is Kathy Hadley, and I am a 3rd generation farmer from Rickreall, just west of Salem. I run an approximately 950 acre family farm with my father, raising a wide variety of crops and also grass fed beef. My husband & I also run his family's 350 acre family farm in Silverton, and he is a 5th generation farmer. Not only are we diverse with having a variety of different types of crops to rotate to benefit the soil and manage weeds and pests more effectively, but you do not have that kind of longevity without operating sustainably. Also, when I use the term "family farm", we are about as legitimate as could be, as my father, husband and I do everything on both farms without hiring anyone. We also have 3 young boys, 8, 6 & 6 weeks, the last I have at home with Grandma so I can come explain why the outcome of this bill is so important to our farms and our industry.

The importance of chlorpyrifos products for us specifically is best illustrated on our Silverton farm, which is half way between the town of Silverton & Silver Creek Falls State Park – so up in some very steep terrain. We rotate between three main crops: fine fescue grass seed, spring oats and broadleaf crops – peas, meadowfoam, brassicas, etc. With the steep hillsides erosion is a huge concern, and with our cropping rotation we are able to minimize said erosion by utilizing a significant amount of no-till farming. Part of what makes our system work though, is being able to leave those fields of fine fescue in for multiple years (sequestering carbon the entire time).

Enter Sod Web-Worm. The pest can destroy our stands of fescue. If we are able to spray chlorpyrifos in the fall (when there is no potential for pollinator injury, I might add), we can effectively interrupt the pest life cycle and protect that stand for up to 5 years of production. At this time, there are literally no alternatives for us – so lack of availability of chlorpyrifos means increased soil tillage to rotate crops more often, leading to more erosion, decreased carbon sequestration, etc. We NEED this tool available to us to be the best environmental stewards we can be.

From a broader perspective, I am very concerned about this body tackling this topic, when there are state and federal agencies that specialize in this subject. Chlorpyrifos is already tightly regulated under Special Local Need restrictions by the state department of Agriculture. It is not good policy to have a patchwork of regulations, whether between states or product-by-product.

I am a licensed applicator, and that alone means hours of training, passing certification tests, etc. We follow the labels when applying (as that's the law), and use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as advised. We use products safely and carefully – much more so than the average

homeowner unfamiliar with reading labels, yet able to purchase many of the same products at your local Home Depot.

Any crop protection product available to me has been through rigorous, extremely expensive, and on-going testing & evaluation to verify its safety when applied as instructed by the label. If we had an alternative on our farm it would be one thing. But we don't, and many other farmers are in the same situation with their crops.

I have detailed just one crop on our farms that is benefited by having clorpyrifos as an option. With the huge variety of crops grown in Oregon, and the relatively minor/specialty status of those as far as acres (compared to mid-West commodity crops) – getting a replacement option is not likely any time soon because the investment is often cost prohibitive for companies. We could also run into phytosanitary issues when exporting products to other countries with tight restrictions.

I sit here before you asking you to oppose this bill, using the same logic as is being applied to another heavily discussed issue in the building currently. I am strongly in support of vaccinations (although having concerns with some details of the currently debated bill), and my 6 week old has had every one that's recommended. Why? Because I believe in the **SCIENCE**. The science regarding clorpyrifos is no different – over 4000 studies have proven its safety regarding children. This is of **OBVIOUS** importance to me having 3 young boys working with me and playing on our farm. Clorpyrifos breaks down readily in sunlight and by soil microbial activity, so once it's achieved the benefit to us as a farmer, it does not linger, or pose on-going risk or unintended affects.

For all of these reasons, I ask that you please oppose HB 2619 A.

Kathy Hadley
Freeborn & Hadley Family Farms (Rickreall & Silverton, OR)
Kathyfree17@aol.com
503.559.5901