From the Desk of
Representative
Marty Wilde

May 16th, 2019

House Bill 2619 Prohibits sale, purchase or use of pesticide products containing chlorpyrifos

Agriculture and Sustainable Business Support for HB 2619

The Oregon Organic Coalition is comprised of farmers wholesalers, processors, organic certifiers, scientists, consumers, and retailers. They write "HB 2619 would provide much needed protections to Oregon's children, farm workers, land and waterways".

Oregon Medical Community Support for HB 2610: OHSU and Oregon Pediatricians

Dr. Weinhous and two additional PHD scientists of Oregon Health and Science University, who write "As scientists that study the toxicity of chemical compounds, including neurotoxic compounds, we write to highlight the evidence for chlorpyrifos toxicity and to encourage the committee to support legislation banning the use of chlorpyrifos in Oregon. "

Dr. Lauren Herbert, Dr. Miranda Lanning, and Dr. Leslie Pelinka –Pediatricians from PeaceHealth Medical Group write "As pediatricians, we are concerned about the adverse effects of chlorpyrifos and other pesticides on the developing brains of the fetus and young child"

The Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units said "there is sufficient evidence.. As pediatricians, we care for the growth, development and well-being of all children. We urge you to support [legislation to ban chlorpyrifos]."

Calls from Scientific Community to Support HB 2619

39 PHD and Scientists from across America writes "Many studies in the United States and other countries, spanning diverse populations in both urban and agricultural settings, have linked low-level exposure to chlorpyrifos...during pregnancy with poorer cognitive, behavioral, and social development in children."

Dr. Ray Seidler writes "I am a retired Professor of Microbiology from Oregon State University, and a retired Senior Research Scientist with the United States Environmental Protection Agency.... The banning of chlorpyrifos should be one of the easiest decisions that any legislature or regulatory body can make. Various studies have documented the positive correlation between exposures to chlorpyrifos and damage to the developing brain of babies and young children causing lowered I.Q"

Dr. Megan Horton, Professor in the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York writes, "Recent advances in brain imaging including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI" have opened unprecedented access to study the developing human brain and understand the impact of environmental chemicals on the typical developmental trajectory....Research conducted leveraging these advances demonstrates the persistent impact of prenatal chlorpyrifos exposure on children's brain structure."

House of Representatives OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Chief Clerks Office

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Dangerous Health Effects Even When Used 'properly'

Farmworker Justice and Migrant Clinicians Network writes "Exposure to pesticides causes farmworkers to suffer more chemical-related injuries and illnesses than any other workforce in the nation"... Farmworkers in Oregon are exposed to chlorpyrifos when they mix or apply the chemical, when they work near an area where chlorpyrifos spraying takes place and are contaminated by drift, or when they enter a field that has previously been sprayed and has residual chemical exposure.

In its most recent Human Health Risk Assessment for Chlorpyrifos, EPA found that there are no safe levels of the pesticide in food or water, that unsafe exposures to farmworkers continue to occur on average 18 days after applications and that workers who mix and apply chlorpyrifos are exposed to unsafe levels even when using protective gear and engineering controls.

Earthjustice Staff Scientist Tyler Smith writes, "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that ***all*** uses of chlorpyrifos result in unsafe levels of exposure to people who handle chlorpyrifos and people who work in the areas where it is applied. This includes ***all*** uses on Christmas trees, which continue to pose risks of concern to workers 30 days after treatment."

There Are Alternatives

Dr. Gunderson is the Director of Environmental Science at Pacific University testified "my consulting work in the agricultural industry showing that the use of these powerful insecticide(s) is not necessary in the economic success of large-scale farms."

The Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides writes, "Safe alternative strategies exist to reduce insect pressure in many crops. Some methods that work include:

- Planting pest-resistant cultivars when available
- Preventing or suppressing pests with cultural strategies to make the area less hospitable to the pest
- Pheromones are used in many crops for mass trapping or mating disruption, suppressing insect populations. Mating disruption for codling moth is currently used on 90% of the apple and pears grown in Washington State and is increasingly used option in Oregon crops like hazelnuts.
- Using exclusion or barrier techniques
- Supporting biological pest control by natural enemies (predators or parasites on the pest.) Many biocontrols can be purchased from commercial providers

Bifenthrin is a registered pesticide for use on Christmas trees for control of the douglas fir needle midge. The Xerces Society report that in addition to Bifenthrin, esfenvalerate is approved for the treatment of twig weevils on Christmas trees.

Chlorpyrifos is ***not*** required to export Christmas trees to Mexico or the European Union. In 2018, the Oregon Department of Agriculture published a summary of export requirements. The guide does not refer to chlorpyrifos in any way.

Some of the pests brought up in the House Rules Committee (web worm, et al) have alternative treatments available found on: www.planetnatural.com