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## Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries

Representative Andrea Salinas, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care  
[hhc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hhc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

***RE: Opposition to HB 4109***

Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee:

The Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries represents the 800 growers and processors of hazelnuts in Oregon. Oregon is home to 99.9% of the U.S. hazelnut industry and acreage has increased from 28,000 to over 80,000 in the last ten years. The industry is positioned to be one of the largest in Oregon when the newly planted trees reach full production. During the past five years the industry has contributed nearly 250 million dollars to the economy of Oregon annually.

While Oregon is the U.S. hazelnut industry, it represents only 3-5% of the world production. During the past ten years close to 60% of Oregon hazelnuts have gone into the export market. The reason Oregon hazelnuts are in demand throughout the world is largely because of their quality. With careful use of pesticides and additional care in processing, they have become the standard for the world. Although Chlorpyrifos residue has not been found in hazelnuts, it does have established Minimum Residue Levels (MRLs) in many countries. If alternative pesticides were used, they may not have established MRLs in which case countries would have the ability to decline importation even though no residue was found.

However, economics is but one aspect of the importance of the industry to the state. Hazelnut trees produce 80 to 100 years. Thus, many growers are multigenerational and all have to be long term thinkers. They have a high level of stewardship and sustainability built in to their individual practices. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a mainstay in their programs.

In the 1980s growers funded researchers at OSU who imported a wasp to control aphids thus greatly reducing the need for pesticides. This has become a classical biological control success story. More recently they have supported work on the use of another wasp to control Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, which is a growing problem for many crops as well as home owners in cities throughout the country.

The industry's use of pesticides is based on monitoring to determine the best timing to apply pesticides to achieve the effect they need without decreasing the populations of beneficial insects or applying more product than is absolutely necessary. Chlorpyrifos is an important component of IPM programs. If pests do not reach a level worthy of control, growers will not use sprays. When the insect pressure reaches a level that will impact the quality of the crop or the health of the trees, growers will control the

population. The critical level has been determined by years of grower funded research at OSU. For specific information on this please see the updated Hazelnut Pest Management Guide for the Willamette Valley at <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em8328>

Chlorpyrifos plays a very important role because it affects a wide variety of pests and is used in rotation practices that manage insect resistance. Although it is a chemistry that is not often used by growers, there are critical uses of the product in hazelnuts where there are few or no other options available to manage the omnivorous leaf tier (a big issue in new plantings in the southern Valley) and the flatheaded borer. The industry has a 2(ee) FIFRA recommendation for Lorsban Advanced for Pacific flatheaded borer in filberts. The industry was able to obtain the [label](#) a couple years ago based on need. The product is also used to combat garden symphylans in new hazelnut plantings. We are not aware of any new chemistries that will work on these pests or symphylans that are available to growers at this time.

The hazelnut industry continues to find ways to reduce the use of pesticides. They realize that a balance of pests and beneficial insects is very important to long-term orchard health and viability. However, Chlorpyrifos is a good tool to have available and on reserve for times it is absolutely needed. There are very few new insecticides coming down the pipeline as development costs have become prohibitive for industry, and we live under constant threat of new invasive pests.

HB 4109 has the potential to have legislators make pesticide use decisions on a product-by-product basis rather than professional work done by scientists and regulators within our state and federal agencies. Current pesticide use is determined by research done by OSU.

**The growers of hazelnuts in Oregon respectfully request your “no” vote on HB 4109.** This will enable them to methodically move forward in their integrated pest management programs for the good of the environment, the industry and the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Polly Owen, Research Director  
Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries

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