



TO:

Rep. Andrea Salinas, Chair  
Rep. Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Rob Nosse, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee

FR:

Jim Fitzgerald  
Far West Agribusiness Association

RE:

Urge Your 'NO' Vote on HB 4109

Far West Agribusiness Association is a 61 year-old-regional trade association with over 100 businesses which are retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers and custom applicators who provide crop inputs and agronomic services to farmers.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify as **opposed to HB 4109**. We oppose the prohibition of the sale of chlorpyrifos in the state. The extensive scientific database used for regulatory purposes globally does not support these actions and believe they will negatively impact Oregon growers that rely on chlorpyrifos to produce important crops.

Chlorpyrifos is authorized for use in 79 countries, including the United States. Labeled uses rest on five decades of experience in use, health surveillance of manufacturing workers and applicators, and more than 4,000 studies and reports examining the product in terms of health, safety and the environment. No pest control product has been more thoroughly evaluated. We continue to support farmers who rely on this important crop protection tool used on over 50 different crop types and applied to nearly every crop in the Willamette Valley.

Lorsban is the most commonly used product that contains the active ingredient Chlorpyrifos. It is critical to apply Lorsban on onions and corn for maggot control. It is also the only effective control for Douglas Fir needle midge which in some states is a quarantine pest, meaning a ban in Oregon could destroy that export market. Other Oregon crops dependent upon Lorsban are mint, peas, hazelnuts, Christmas trees and Oregon's largest commodity, grass. In addition, Chlorpyrifos is extremely effective against mosquitos known to carry Malaria, West Nile and other preventable diseases. Chlorpyrifos is extremely effective against termites which destroy structures responsible for \$1-2 billion in US property damage per year.

Numerous health organizations, including the World Health Organization and Health Canada, have determined a safe dose of chlorpyrifos which is consistent with the registration requirements of EPA. The label is the law when it comes to applications so it is unlawful to apply any crop protection product at rates not within the approved EPA registration. In July, 2019 EPA decided not to ban the use of Chlorpyrifos and stated the following: There is good reason to continue allowing farmers to use

chlorpyrifos *“given the importance of this matter and the fact that critical questions remained regarding the significance of the data addressing neurodevelopmental effects”*.

If members of the public wish to avoid all or some pesticides, they can buy organic but they must weigh the potential ill effects of insect contamination.

In agriculture, Chlorpyrifos is an essential pesticide for seed treatment. No-till farming has become commonplace for its soil, water and erosion benefits but because of the residue, soils are cooler and germination takes longer. This gives insects a greater window of opportunity to inhibit germination which results in a poor or minimal plant population and is detrimental to agricultural production in Oregon. When used as a seed treatment and the seed is buried within the soil, it is not in contact with the environment or other non-targeted insects. This serves as an example of why a band on neonocs would be a bad policy and we urge your opposition and a **NO vote for HB 4109**