

OREGON FINE FESCUE COMMISSION

Post Office Box 3366, Salem, Oregon 97302-0366 • Tel: (503) 364-2944 • Fax: (503) 581-6819
www.oregonfinefescue.org



February 11, 2020

The Honorable Andrea Salinas
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Salinas:

As an ag producer, **I am writing to express my industry's opposition to HB 4109**, the ban on chlorpyrifos. The Legislature banned most field burning in 2009, and as predicted we have seen a tremendous increase in insect pests and plant diseases.

Chlorpyrifos is the only tool we have to control damaging insect pests, there are no alternatives and no new chemistries or technologies are on the horizon. Taking drastic action like this doesn't seem warranted. The damage it will cause to family farms across Oregon is unprecedented and entirely avoidable.

My compliments to the Oregon Department of Agriculture for their efforts in assembling a work group to address this very issue. We need more of that type of thoughtful, measured thinking on complex issues. Putting in place a "hard stop" as HB 4109 does isn't thoughtful leadership.

HB 4109 will severely impact thousands of Oregon family farms, it offers no help to transition away from chlorpyrifos, no help with research and no vision for helping fellow Oregonians be successful contributors to our economy and communities.

HB 4109 is too much, too fast. We need a thoughtful path forward. Unfortunately that vision is not represented in this Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zach Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Zach Taylor,
Chairman

