

**PAUL HOLVEY**  
**OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**HOUSE DISTRICT 8**

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

House Committee on Health Care

**HB 4109**

I brought forward HB 4109 due to the concern that people were being harmed from exposure to Chlorpyrifos; mounting evidence has convinced me that is the case in Oregon.

Chlorpyrifos is a harmful neurotoxin used as a pesticide to control insects on a variety of crops. Countless peer reviewed studies have shown that it is highly toxic and unhealthy, even at very low levels. Agricultural workers and their families are being disproportionately exposed to unsafe levels of this neurotoxin. These exposures cause agricultural workers to suffer more chemical-related injuries and illness than any other workforce in the nation. Also, at risk are individuals who live, work or are in close proximity to an area being sprayed because of drift or water contamination from Chlorpyrifos. Many studies have linked chlorpyrifos to brain damage in children, cancer, autism, and Parkinson's disease. These studies have shown there is no safe levels of exposure for pregnant women and contact can often lead to lower body weight, premature birth, and an overall reduction in IQ.

Due to these health risks the EPA banned residential use of Chlorpyrifos in 2001 but continued to allow use in agricultural fields. Then in 2016 the EPA recommended a phase out of chlorpyrifos, but in 2017 under the current administration, the EPA reversed that decision.

**HB 4109** will immediately instate some needed protections for agricultural workers and people close to applications of by banning the aerial spray of Chlorpyrifos. Drift from aerial applications can cause pollution to adjacent homes, workers near the fields and to watersheds. The bill will also mandate 300ft buffer zones around schools, to help protect children. And it will immediately require employers to take reasonable steps to ensure that agricultural workers do not enter an area within eight days of application.

**HB 4109** will then enact a complete phase out of the use, sale or purchase of any pesticide containing Chlorpyrifos by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. This extended phase out will allow farmers some time to transition away from Chlorpyrifos.

I urge the passage to HB 4109.



Representative Paul Holvey