From: Joseph Palazzo
To: HHC Exhibits; Rep Nosse; Rep Salinas
Subject: Support for H.B. 4109 The Healthy Kids and Farmworkers Act
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 1:06:00 PM

Dear Chair Salinas and members of the Committee on Health Care,

I am writing to urge your strong support of **HB 4109**, phasing out chlorpyrifos in Oregon, and ask that you vote **HB 4109** out of your committee with a “do pass” recommendation.

The science on chlorpyrifos is crystal clear: chlorpyrifos is known to harm kids‘ brains. Chlorpyrifos is linked to infertility, cancer, respiratory diseases, developmental disorders and more. Created as a chemical weapon in WWII, this old chemistry is outdated and dangerous, as recognized by EPA in 2015-2016, Hawaii, California, New York, and the European Union. The US EPA banned the use of chlorpyrifos in homes twenty years ago! Unfortunately, the EPA’s plan to end the use of chlorpyrifos on food crops was halted by former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt in 2016.

In the face of federal inaction for nearly 20 years, Oregon needs to act urgently to protect human and environmental health from this unsafe and unnecessary pesticide. HB 4109 will phase out the aerial spraying of chlorpyrifos in Oregon, protect children by prohibiting chlorpyrifos use within 300 feet of schools, and add stronger protections for farmworkers. HB 4109 includes a phase-out period of more than a year to give farmers time to adjust to the many alternative options, just like farmers in Hawaii and California. These are reasonable steps for Oregon to take in response to the long-standing warnings that there are no safe levels of exposure to this extremely neurotoxic chemical.

A phase-out will not only protect kids and farmworkers, it will benefit pollinators and other wildlife also exposed to the toxic pesticide, and encourage safer alternatives that promote healthy soils.

It is my strong belief that chlorpyrifos has no place in Oregon. Thank you for considering my testimony in strong support of the measure.

Signed,
Joseph M Palazzo
palazzo.joseph@gmail.com