



Friends of Family Farmers ♦ PO Box 396 ♦ Corbett, OR 97019

503-581-7124 ♦ [www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org](http://www.FriendsofFamilyFarmers.org)

February 21, 2020

## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Committee Support HB 4109

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of HB 4109 to phase out the toxic pesticide chlorpyrifos, which is harmful to human health and the environment.

Friends of Family Farmers represents Oregon family farmers who responsibly steward their land and feed our communities. We promote policies that protect and expand the ability of family farmers and ranchers to operate successful land-based enterprises while providing safe and nutritious food for all Oregonians.

We believe responsible stewardship of the land, and protection of those who grow and handle our crops, requires moving towards far less toxic alternatives than chlorpyrifos. This is a WWII-era warfare chemical first formulated to be a nerve gas. It has been linked to low birth weight, reduced IQ and attention disorders in children, as well as other health problems for those exposed to it. For the farmworkers who mix and handle it, *just going to work* puts them in danger, along with their families, as this powerful toxic chemical clings to their clothes and is carried home with them. Oregon must do better to protect our farmworkers and their families. The US Environmental Protection Agency has stated that **there is no safe use** of the pesticide, and it was intended to be restricted until an abrupt and scientifically baseless reversal by the Trump administration.

HB 4109 would immediately end aerial spraying of chlorpyrifos and applying the pesticide within 300 feet of schools, and then phase out all uses of the pesticide beginning in 2022. If passed, Oregon would be the fourth state to restrict this pesticide in the face of federal inaction. Recently, even the primary manufacturer of chlorpyrifos announced it is discontinuing its production. While we hope this decision will lead to reduced use of this harmful chemical over time, it is likely that generic versions will continue to be used. Oregon needs to take action now to begin the phaseout process and help farmers find safer alternatives.

Again, thank you for holding this hearing and considering this important legislation. We urge you to send it to the Senate floor with a 'do pass' recommendation.

Thank you,

Shari Sirkin  
Executive Director  
Friends of Family Farmers