



SUPPORT HB 3249: FUND RESEARCH ON CHLORPYRIFOS ALTERNATIVES

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) released new rules in December 2020, restricting and phasing out most uses of chlorpyrifos in Oregon within a short timeline of three years. Yet, the process at ODA failed to arrive at a realistic estimate of financial impact to local growers, and unfortunately, a number of Oregon crops still rely on chlorpyrifos for the management of certain problem pests. These are mostly minor or “specialty” crops with already limited pesticide options. Without effective alternatives, growers will face devastating crop loss, and risk losing access to domestic and international markets.

In light of this rulemaking and its anticipated impacts, we must invest in the research needed to identify safe, effective, and affordable alternatives for a large number of unique crop/pest combinations. The stakes are high, and to date, the state has made little investment to help Oregon growers find replacement products. It’s critical that we transparently acknowledge and address the economic impacts of regulatory decisions such as this one.

HB 3249 begins to address this by:

- Establishing a grant program to be administered through ODA’s Minor Crops Advisory Committee, to fund research to identify alternatives to chlorpyrifos for Oregon’s minor crops, with a general fund appropriation of \$850,000 toward this effort.
- Appropriating \$400,000 to OSU’s IR-4 program to support research trials on alternatives to chlorpyrifos, to be conducted based on broad stakeholder consultation to identify priority crops and pests.

HB 3249 follows the example set by regulators in California, and initiates an investment toward solutions for local growers. HB 3249 acknowledges that it takes time and significant resources to conduct the research necessary to ensure that specialty crop growers have access to effective and affordable replacement products when critical tools are restricted or removed.

Please join us in supporting HB 3249

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