



To: Chair Witt and Members of the House Committee on Agricultural and Natural Resources

Date: April 1, 2021

Re: In support of HB 2031-1

Beyond Toxics is a statewide environmental justice organization advancing policies that ensure environmental protection and meaningful participation and leadership from Oregon's frontline and impacted communities. We support HB 2031-1 which, if passed, will harmonize Oregon's rules on pesticide certification and training with rule changes recently adopted by the U.S. EPA.

Beyond Toxics has served on various stakeholder advocacy committees convened by ODA on topics such as School IPM Licensing and Chlorpyrifos restrictions. Our testimony therefore reflects our experience working with ODA to continually improve the safety of pesticide applications, develop training and licensing guidelines and support the adoption of state laws that are consistent with federal law regarding pesticide-related activities, including the application of Restricted Use Pesticides.

We support the recommended changes related to "uses" of pesticides, certification and training. The changes cover supervising a non-certified pesticide user and expands uses of pesticides to include mixing and handling. The new rule also gives the Agency authority to take action to suspend or revoke a license under certain conditions of criminal or civil violations.

Passing HB 2031-1 will improve public safety by ensuring proper pesticide training, certification and supervision. The bill further improves ODA's ability to assure that the Agency has the legal tools and definitions it needs to properly administer these programs in full compliance with federal law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2032-1.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

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