

My name is Brenda Frketich and I am a third generation farmer from St. Paul. My farm both sustainable and diverse and includes many specialty crops that are grown here in the Willamette Valley. Last year the Oregon Department of Agriculture released their new rules surrounding chlorpyrifos. With this quick three year phase out, my main concern is going to be able to fill the gap that will be left in pest management for our crops, which will result in crop losses in many cases. While there is a phase out period, it's very short, and very underfunded.

This is why I am asking you to please support HB 3249. This bill would help farmers like me in many ways. First it would establish 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. Secondly it would appropriate \$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.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue to Oregon farmers.