

Testimony of Oregon Family Farm Association

House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
April 6, 2021



Support for HB 3249, Chlorpyrifos Alternatives Research

The Oregon Family Farm Association is dedicated to protecting the heritage of Oregon's family farms, helping farmers and educating the public about the health and future of family farming in Oregon. **OFFA supports HB 3249 establishing a grant program to study alternatives to the pesticide chlorpyrifos.**

The Oregon agriculture industry is an essential and important part of the state's economy. Family farms play a vital role in the industry by growing the crops and products needed by consumers in Oregon and around the world. While not used by all farmers, the segment of the ag industry that uses chlorpyrifos has few choices at this point to replace that substance to help control pests in their industry.

As work proceeded this past year at the Oregon Department of Agriculture to restrict and prohibit the use of chlorpyrifos, viable alternatives for Oregon growers to use have not yet emerged. That is a problem for certain growers of specialty crops in Oregon and the state needs to support solutions. HB 3249 is important legislation so that Oregon farmers can have the tools they need to manage pests that cause major problems in growing certain crops.

The step taken to prohibit and restrict this tool prior to a replacement can be corrected with the passage of HB 3249. The Oregon Legislature has the opportunity to get funding to our scientists at Oregon State University to conduct research into finding a pesticide alternative to chlorpyrifos. That is crucial and is the correct approach that the state of Oregon can embark on going forward.

HB 3249 is a straightforward, sensible, and important piece of legislation for Oregon agriculture. OFFA urges your support in passing HB 3249.

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