



February 17, 2025

To House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Re: HB 3010 – Responses to Questions

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to questions regarding HB 3010 with the -2 Amendment. I have put the questions posed in italics, followed by our responses.

*Q: The written and audio-visual materials for Worker Protection Standard already exist in Spanish. Why is this necessary?*

R: There are training videos available in English and Spanish under the Worker Protection Standard (WPS), and the growers have been using those videos since 2018. The bill is seeking trainers to deliver this training in person in Spanish using hands-on methods, a more effective training technique. This type of engaged delivery is not currently offered in Oregon unless trainers are brought in from Washington as Hood River SWCD does for the area they serve.

*Q: This bill amends the statute to mandate that the state of Oregon delivers Spanish pesticide education to applicators and farmworkers across the state. Does this mean that the farmer (employer) will no longer be able to train their own employees themselves, or using their own interpreter or a bilingual employee?*

R: No, there would be no new rules prohibiting farmers/employers from delivering in-house training to employees. They would have a new option, inviting OSU to deliver that training instead.

*Q: Does this bill mean that agricultural employers will be required to use state-developed curriculum and videos ONLY? If so, when will those be available, and will employers be charged for their use?*

R: The Worker Protection Standards already requires that EPA-approved training materials must be used, but they can be supplemented with hands-on activities. The bill would not introduce any new requirements related to the use of WPS training materials.

Pre-license training (laws & safety), and training for already-certified applicators (advanced), are very different from Worker Protection Standards training, which has a prescribed list of training concepts that are introductory/basic.

OSU Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) has a set of online modules in English for students preparing to take the initial certification exam for pesticide applicators in English. OSU has been working without specific funding to translate those modules for two years, but funded activities have taken precedence over this.

If the bill passes, OSU would travel to agricultural operations to deliver the requested training at no cost to the agricultural employer. The bill includes funding for travel and training supplies for up to 25 trips per year, which is insufficient to meet all training needs in the state.

*Q: When will those be available, and will employers be charged for their use?*

R: There are no new requirements for employers in the bill, only the new option to invite OSU to deliver training, if desired. Agricultural employers could continue doing WPS training as they have in the past.

*Q: The bill funds 2 FT Spanish-language pesticide educators to be housed at OSU PSEP program. They would work directly with Spanish-speaking workers to deliver in-person pesticide safety training. Does this mean that every farm would have to hire OSU trainers to come to their farm every time they hire a new employee?*

R: No. Farms would be welcome to invite OSU to deliver the training, or not. This might be desirable for operations that plan on hiring large teams on a predictable schedule, or training large crews on a routine schedule. It might be especially desirable for crews that have seen the typical training videos many times. If OSU-provided training is not convenient or desirable, it would have no effect.

*Q: Will employer-provided training under the WPS still be available and lawful or will OSU be able to guarantee trainer availability even if requested on short notice?*

R: Employer-provided training under the WPS would still be available and lawful, and it may be the only convenient option when hiring workers to begin work right away.

*Q: During the public hearing for HB 3010 on 1/27/25 the comment was made that 'the bill does not go far enough but it is a start'. What is the intentioned goal of the bill?*

R: Two trainers will be capable of approximately 25 training trips per year, clumped in the winter/spring months, but the demand may be greater. Washington has slowly grown its team of WPS trainers since 1995 from one (1) trainer to eleven (11), based on demand from the agricultural sector. Their team is able to serve additional commodities/regions with each new hire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AK', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that tapers off to the right.

Andrea Kreiner  
Executive Director