



January 15 2025

Co-Chairs Rep. Ken Helm and Rep. Mark Owens and members of the Committee
House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee

RE: HB 3010 Bilingual Pesticide Safety Education and Training Legislation - SUPPORT

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts and the undersigned request your support for HB 3010, to provide capacity for pesticide safety education and training to the Spanish speaking agricultural workforce.

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers as well as federal, state, and nonprofit partners.

Oregon's agricultural workforce is predominantly Latino and Spanish-speaking, yet there is a lack of state-lead Spanish-language pesticide safety educational resources. This affects the ability of workers to safeguard themselves from pesticide exposure, understand regulatory requirements, and ensure environmental protection. Worker Protections Standards training is federally mandated for farmworkers, on farms where pesticide are used, to receive this training annually. There is currently no state led program to administer this training in a culturally appropriate way, the burden falls on the individual farmers.

HB3010 allocates general funds to Oregon State University Pesticide Safety and Education Program to establish a bilingual pesticide education program. The funds provide for two full-time equivalents (FTEs) to deliver in-person, culturally appropriate Spanish-language pesticide education training, focusing on Worker Protection Standards and Pesticide Handler training. This will begin to create a pesticide education system that enhances worker safety, equity, and regulatory compliance statewide.

By allocating funds to Oregon State University for this initiative, Oregon can begin to create a Spanish-language pesticide education licensing program that mirrors successful models in other states. HB 3010 supports Oregon agriculture, its labor force, environmental protection, workforce development, and state regulatory agencies. Investing in equitable pesticide for Oregon's Spanish-speaking agricultural workforce is not only a matter of fairness but also crucial for maintaining regulatory compliance, protecting health and safety, and supporting the state's agricultural economy and environment.

We urge you to support 3010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Kreiner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Kreiner, Executive Director
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Organizations in support of HB 3010

