

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of HB 3010

January 27, 2025

Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and members of the Committee,

As a career language teacher specializing in French and Spanish, the State Representative for House District 26, and a chief sponsor of House Bill 3010 (-2), I am writing to express my strong support for this important policy. HB 3010 advances language access, health, and environmental stewardship within Oregon’s agricultural sector.

I am committed to reducing pesticides, toxins, and harmful exposures in our environment wherever possible. Additionally, I am a strong advocate for ensuring language access to critical information.

Oregon’s essential agricultural workforce is predominantly Latino and Spanish-speaking and critical to the important work of our state’s farms and food systems. Yet our workforce lacks sufficient access to Spanish-language pesticide safety education, creating significant challenges in workers protecting themselves and their families. This missing training is an impediment to compliance with regulatory requirements, and puts our natural resources at risk.

HB 3010 has broad support from a growing coalition and will establish a Spanish pesticide safety education initiative for farmworkers, pesticide consultants, operators, applicators, noncommercial applicators, private applicators and trainees.

The -2 amendment specifies that the **allocation goes to “Oregon State University’s Pesticide Safety and Education Program”** to fund two full-time trainers. These trainers will deliver in-person, linguistically responsive Spanish-language pesticide training and provide educational materials to our farm workers across the state.

This initiative serves the goal of **protecting the health and safety of our workforce and their families** from unnecessary pesticide exposure.

It will improve **access to critical safety education** in a language and manner that workers can engage with.

It **prevents pesticide misuse and contamination from pesticides**, protecting Oregon's waterways, air, and soil, and preserving our natural resources for future generations.

And also very important, it will **support Oregon's farmers meet their regulatory requirements** while fostering a safer workplace.

Our farmworkers are the backbone of our agricultural industry and help feed millions of people. HB 3010 (-2) reflects Oregon's commitment to safety and sustainability and also underscores the importance of regulatory compliance.

I urge your support for early passage of HB 3010 with the -2 amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Neron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Courtney Neron
House District 26
King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Wilsonville