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## News Release – December 22, 2020

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### **Oregon is 4th State in Nation to Phase Out Neurotoxic Pesticide Chlorpyrifos**

*Stakeholders work with state regulators to protect children, farm workers and rural residents*

**(Eugene, OR)** - In a win for public and environmental health, the Oregon Department of Agriculture adopted a new set of laws to immediately restrict the use of the pesticide, chlorpyrifos, which has been linked to increased risk of learning disabilities, lower IQs, developmental delays, and behavior problems in children.

This news comes after nearly three years of advocacy from the environmental justice advocacy group, Beyond Toxics, in alliance with PCUN, Oregon's farm worker union. The broad coalition organized by Beyond Toxics and PCUN, mobilized hundreds of comments and worked closely with the agency to eliminate barriers to public participation to ensure that farmworkers and impacted members of the public could make their voices heard.

As of December 31st, 2023, Oregon is prohibited to use, deliver, distribute, sell, offer or expose for sale pesticide products containing chlorpyrifos, except granular forms, seed treatments and pest emergencies.

The final rule has several components that can improve the lives of farmworker communities and protect children's health, but ultimately, does not fully ban chlorpyrifos.

- o Ban uses on golf courses.
- o Bans aerial application on all crops by January 1, 2021
- o Bans aerial spraying of Christmas trees by December 31, 2023, and until then any spraying will only be permitted from April 1-June 15.
- o Buffer zones to reduce drift from spraying near sensitive sites such as farmworker housing and schools are increased to 300 feet from as little as 10 to a maximum of 100 ft. in existing regulations.
- o Significantly increases requirements for personal protective equipment for mixers and applicators.
- o Classifies all chlorpyrifos products as "restricted use" which requires a pesticide applicators license to buy or use the pesticide.

Beyond Toxics Executive Director, Lisa Arkin, a member of the chlorpyrifos workgroup committee, said "With this new rule, only about 1 percent of potential chlorpyrifos uses will be allowed after 2023, which eliminates the vast majority of problems associated with worker exposure, food residues, water contamination and pesticide drift," she said. "I am proud to say that, because we raised the alarm about the dangers of chlorpyrifos, Oregon took action to protect children, farm workers and nearby rural residents from chlorpyrifos poisoning."

Beyond Toxics first worked with state legislators Representatives Paul Holvey and Ken Helm in 2019 to introduce a proposed law to phase out the pesticides use in Oregon, following similar actions taken in

Hawaii, California and New York. The bill proposal was reintroduced by Representative Salinas during the 2020 legislative short session with support from both Beyond Toxics and PCUN. After the issue remained unresolved because of the premature end of the 2020 legislative session, the Department of Agriculture established a work group of farm, business and environmental health advocates to study the issue. Based on the agency's findings, the Oregon Department of Agriculture released a final rule on the use of Chlorpyrifos on December 16th, culminating a year-long rulemaking process.

REFERENCE:

OAR 603-057-0545 Permanent Chlorpyrifos Rule December 15, 2020

[RULE TITLE: Limitations on Pesticide Products Containing Chlorpyrifos](#) (PDF)

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*Beyond Toxics is a statewide environmental justice organization advancing policies that ensure meaningful participation and cultivating grassroots leadership from Oregon's frontline and impacted communities. Established in 2001, we are a multicultural, inter-generational team dedicated to centering community leaders and building out the true diversity of our state's vibrant Environmental Justice movement.*