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News Release – September 11, 2019

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum announces Oregon seeks to join lawsuit to demand revoking the use of chlorpyrifos on food crops

Oregon joins the Attorneys General of six other states

Eugene, ORE. – On September 6, 2019 the Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum announced she has requested that Oregon intervene in a proceeding filed with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to join six other Attorneys General to sue the EPA for continuing to allow the use of chlorpyrifos, a neurotoxic pesticide, on common foods. Rosenblum is asking the EPA to revoke all tolerances for chlorpyrifos residue on all foods until they can show that the pesticide is safe. Chlorpyrifos is organophosphate pesticide known to cause neurological impairment in infants and children.

The Oregon Attorney General's action is not the first time the State has tried to protect children from harm caused by chlorpyrifos. Legislation to [ban chlorpyrifos](#) was introduced in the 2019 session at the request of Beyond Toxics and a coalition of environmental justice, labor advocacy and conservation organizations. Twenty-one legislators signed on as key sponsors of SB 853 and HB 3058. The bills would have banned the use of chlorpyrifos. The legislation also addressed the need to protect pollinators by restricting the sales of neonicotinoid pesticides. The legislation was consolidated into HB 2619 which focused solely on banning chlorpyrifos. Oregon would have been the 4th state to strictly regulate the sale and use of chlorpyrifos, following action taken by Hawaii, New York and California.

Although HB 2619 did not get a floor vote, the Attorney General's action indicates the need to take action to end the use of outdated chemistries like chlorpyrifos. Chlorpyrifos pesticides are detected in surface water monitoring by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and is one of the pesticides listed on the agency's focus list for toxics reduction to improve water quality. Chlorpyrifos residues have been found in common foods sold in Oregon such as beans and cereals according to [2019 research](#) conducted by Friends of the Earth in partnership with Beyond Toxics.

[A March blog by Lisa Arkin](#) describes the chlorpyrifos hearings in the Oregon 2019 legislature. Erin Ross for Oregon Public Broadcasting wrote this [article](#) on reasons the bills failed.

"The action taken by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum is tremendously important to protecting Oregon's children," said Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics. "Organizations pursuing a ban on chlorpyrifos remain steadfast in their goal to have Oregon join the states that have banned chlorpyrifos by legislative action."

For more information about the dangers of chlorpyrifos please contact:

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Beyond Toxics promotes environmental justice engagement and community-based environmental grassroots organizing to ensure environmental protection and health for all communities.