

**SHELLY BOSHART DAVIS**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 15



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building, H271  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on SB 5502

June 25, 2021

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

The Oregon Department of Agriculture budget contains a lot of good, but a few points I would like to make:

1. I strongly support additional investment in ODA. They are a critical natural resource agency and seem to get less investment than DEQ, OWRD and other agencies.
2. While I am encouraged by the increased investment in water quality in the reconciliation budget, I am disappointed by the state's lack of investment in chlorpyrifos research. We cannot ban tools producers desperately need without investing in research for alternatives, as every other state who has pursued a chlorpyrifos ban has done.

Our citizen legislature is neither designed nor equipped to carry out a thorough scientific and technical review of chlorpyrifos. Without a broad understanding of products available to growers and consumers and potential alternatives and trade-offs, we risk doing as much harm as good in picking "preferred" products or inadvertently encouraging other behaviors without better information. One of the reasons I fought this ban was because farmers have no good alternatives. As a restricted use pesticide, it is already heavily tested and regulated at the state and federal level. Nevertheless, this body felt differently and introduced legislation to ban it in 2020. Following the session, the ODA took subsequent steps to prohibit most legal uses of the product by the end of 2023. At the very least, we should have funded research into alternatives, so our farmers aren't left without legal or cost-effective alternatives.

It is irresponsible and shows the priority this state places on the farming community to ban a tool and then refuse to fund research to find alternatives. This was disappointing and I will continue to look for ways to support our natural resources industries in this state.

Sincerely,

Shelly Boshart Davis  
Oregon House of Representatives | House District 15