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Press Kit: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>



Press Release

Data shows that state funding commonly pays for pesticides with high environmental and human health impacts

March 8th Press Conference and Lobby Day at State Capitol to support integrated pest management on public property

What: Press Conference on HB 3364 – Safe Public Places Act

When: Friday, March 8, 9:45am (followed by Lobby Day for HB 3364)

Where: Capitol Press Room

Speakers: Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer; Lisa Arkin, Director of Beyond Toxics; Deanna Simon, IPM Specialist, John Huddle, La Pine resident

Salem, OR (3/05/2013) A new study finds that pesticide projects often paid for with Oregon tax payer dollars may have high environmental impacts for people, fish and water quality. The findings support the benefits of having state agencies develop Integrated Pest Management protocols to manage pests by state agencies.

Beyond Toxics, a statewide environmental health organization, examined over 600 herbicide spray records for tax payer funded projects. They found that over half of the projects were paid for with Oregon lottery funds, and the rest were financed with grants from state or federal agencies. The study also shows that the State is paying for some products that are prone to contaminating ground water or are known carcinogens.

A number of legislators and conservation and health groups are supporting the State Integrated Pest Management bill, also known as the [Safe Public Places Act](#) (HB 3364). The bill will require the State to adopt a health and environment protective standard when managing pests such as insects and weeds by considering least toxic methods first, and using pesticides when necessary to get the job done. The proposed IPM policy applies only to state-owned property, not to private land.

Beyond Toxics, a statewide environmental health organization, is holding a Lobby Day in Salem on Friday, March 8. Supporters from around the state will gather to speak with legislators about pesticide reform on state lands. With data showing the presence of pesticides in Oregon rivers and residents, there is increasing awareness and public support for a State Integrated Pest Management law. For example, Oregon adopted a 2009 School law to reduce toxic pesticides at all schools by using IPM. The proposed law would create similar standards at state facilities, office buildings and parks.

“The bill shows Oregonians that the legislature is serious about better management and metrics for the use of pesticides on public land,” said Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics. “We need to keep our children safe from exposure in our state parks and public buildings.”

IPM is a science-based, proven approach to controlling pests based on monitoring, tracking and less harmful treatments. IPM would also help meet the state’s pollution reduction goals while addressing pest problems, from weeds to rodents.

Read the bill here: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb3300.dir/hb3364.intro.pdf>

For more background about the issue and March 8th Lobby Day details, visit: www.SafePublicPlaces.org or call Alison Guzman: (541) 465-8860. For more about Beyond Toxics: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>.