

I am very much in support of HB 2409, for many reasons.

First and foremost, HB 2409 will give homeowners who do not want their yards treated with toxic chemicals the ability to opt out. People have the right to choose their method of landscape maintenance care. Those who do not want to be in close proximity to toxic chemicals should be able to decide that, convey that decision to the HOA management, and have that desire carried out.

However, some HOAs are set up so that a resident's front yard is part of the common area rather than their own property. This bill needs to specify that those homeowners are also protected from a one-approach-fits-all protocol for the entire neighborhood.

Secondly, HB 2409 will provide the impetus for HOA owners to consider different methods of landscape care to avoid the harm that comes from the use and exposure to pesticides. Not only for the people who live on those properties but for the pollinators, fish, wildlife, birds, and more. The evidence is clear that herbicides, insecticide, and fungicides harm the environment --- it is time for Oregon to create a new path forward to reduce, if not eliminate, the use of toxic chemical exposure as much as possible.

Children and pets are especially at risk of harm from pesticides applied to lawns, shrubbery, and trees and we need to consider both the short and long-term health impacts -- not only for the homeowners and their families, but also for the landscape maintenance workers. Our healthcare system is already past the breaking point. This bill is a good start for reducing the number of people who may develop cancers and other illnesses from pesticide exposure.

Thank you.
Kristina Lefever