

**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture, Land and Water
On HB 4062**

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 4062.

This legislation will allow Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish new types of pesticide licenses through rulemaking rather than through legislation. Existing licenses will remain in statute, any new ones created by ODA would be established through the standard rulemaking process, which would ensure the opportunity for public comment.

Currently, ODA has only nine pesticide license types. The license type determines what activities can be done under that license, and what education and training is required to get that license. In many cases, the activities of the license applicant do not quite align with the current license types available. An applicant may then be required to participate in training requirements that unrelated to the activities they will be performing. For example, there is no current license specific to the pesticide application activities taking place at schools, golf courses, or wood product treatment operations. Instead, these applicators must get a license that is not explicitly tailored to their practices or their needs.

Giving the agency the ability to use the rulemaking process for creating pesticide license types will ensure that the license type, and subsequent training and certification more accurately reflects the work of the licensed individual. This change would also give the agency more forward looking capacity for adapting to changes in federal laws and future materials, activities and technologies.

OEC urges the committee to support HB 4062.