



OCN Priorities for Environmental Health Bills in Ways and Means Committee

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and G. Smith, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

We are Oregon organizations supported by hundreds of thousands of Oregonians to work closely with communities seeking public health and well-being by prioritizing environmental health and protection from toxic chemicals. We urge members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee to support two statewide toxics reductions bills in the hopes that they can be voted out of the Committee: SB 426-2 and SB 456-7.

These bills are needed to protect and prioritize kid's and environmental health.

It is well known that people are healthier when they have less exposure to toxic chemicals in their daily lives, particularly kids who are being exposed during their growing years. Investments in toxics reductions come back to us in other forms: Kids do better in school and health and well-being improves leading to less medical burdens. This is true in every corner of Oregon—in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike. When our youth are healthy, all of Oregon thrives. We ask that this Ways and Means Committee approves and funds two key environmental health bills.

1. Toxic Free Schools (SB 426-A)

Despite the fact that the Oregon Legislature passed the School Integrated Pest Management law in 2009, Oregon school districts and regulatory agencies have never been given the funding, coordination and resources needed to implement the safer pesticide use practices called for in the regulation. SB 426 will fix a 14-year unfunded mandate for schools, fix an oversight that omitted the Oregon Department of Education in the original statute and create a path towards modernized record keeping and safer choices for pest control under the Healthy and Safe Schools Act.



The Toxic Free Schools Act will:

- End a 14-year unfunded mandate by providing resources and technological assistance to school districts to reduce harmful pesticide use.
- Coordinate requirements under the existing School IPM statues and the Healthy and Safe Schools Act for the first time since their passage.
- Modernize pesticide record-keeping processes and increase transparency for communities.

[SB 426](#) was voted out of the Senate Education Committee on March 30th with bipartisan support and has been referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee to address its fiscal impact.

2. Toxic Free Cosmetics (SB 546-7A)

People assume personal and beauty products (collectively called “cosmetics”) are safe. But the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act (FDCA) has only restricted [11 chemicals](#) since 1938, while the European Union has [banned over 1800 chemicals](#). These chemicals are applied directly to the skin, and absorbed in utero, impacting both adults and children.

SB 546 would require the public disclosure of all chemical ingredients on a company’s product webpage. Doing so is an accessible way for consumers to make educated purchasing decisions. Additionally, it will ban the sale of the worst chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products like many other states have.

[SB 546](#) passed out of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee on March 28th, *unanimously* and bipartisan, and has been referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee to address its fiscal impact. It was initially sent straight to the Senate floor because **no fiscal impact has been found for this biennium (\$270k impact total starting in 2027)**. We urge this committee to refer SB 546 out back to the Senate floor, and commit to funding a part time staffer within OHA starting in 2027 for this critical toxics reductions program.