

Submitter: John Ostrom  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2679

Subject: Support for HB 2679 – Protecting Pollinators and Wildlife

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy and Members of the House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee,

My name is John K. Ostrom, and I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2679 because it is a critical step toward protecting Oregon's pollinators, water quality, and public health from toxic neonicotinoid pesticides. Protecting pollinators and enhancing their habitat here in Oregon is near and dear to me. I have been planting native and pollinator-friendly vegetation for several years at Tugman Park in Eugene as part of the Friends of Tugman Park in collaboration with the City of Eugene – Parks & Open Space Dept. as well as the Xerces Society. I have also undertaken these planting endeavors in my own yard. It is amazing to see the numbers and diversity of native pollinator species that are now able to take advantage of these enhanced ecosystems. An equally important action is to now further protect these pollinators by reducing pesticide contamination.

Align Oregon with 12 Other States who have already taken action: Several states, including Washington, California, and Nevada, have already taken steps to limit access to residential neonicotinoid use. Oregon should follow suit to protect its ecosystems, communities, and economy from the harmful effects of these pesticides. This bill will keep these pesticides out of the hands of untrained users and remove them from retail sales at big box stores.

Protect Oregon's Pollinators: Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are in steep decline, with neonicotinoids playing a major role in their population collapse. These pesticides impair pollinators' ability to forage, reproduce, and navigate, putting Oregon's food systems and ecosystems at risk. HB 2679 can help protect these essential species by restricting the unnecessary use of neonicotinoids in residential areas.

Prevent Pesticide Contamination in Waterways: Neonicotinoids are highly water-soluble and frequently contaminate streams, lakes, and drinking water. Even at low concentrations, they are toxic to fish and aquatic life. By classifying neonicotinoids as restricted-use pesticides, HB 2679 will reduce pesticide runoff and safeguard Oregon's water quality.

Reduce Risks to Human Health: Scientific studies have linked neonicotinoid

exposure to neurological damage, developmental disorders, and reproductive harm in humans. Children, pregnant individuals, and agricultural workers are particularly vulnerable. HB 2679 is a necessary step to protect public health by limiting exposure to these dangerous chemicals.

I urge you to support HB 2679 to safeguard pollinators, protect public health, and reduce pesticide contamination in Oregon's environment.

Sincerely,

John K. Ostrom  
Eugene, OR