Submitter:	Mark Newberger
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 and Members of the Committee,

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.

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.

Bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are in steep decline, and studies show that neonicotinoids play 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.

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.

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,

Mark Newberger

Ashland, Oregon