



To: Co-Chairs Helm, Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

From: Jennifer Eisele, Communities and Ecosystems Project Manager, Beyond Toxics

Date: May 5, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 360

My name is Jennifer Eisele, Communities and Ecosystems Project Manager at Beyond Toxics. Beyond Toxics is a Statewide Environmental Justice advocacy organization representing over 10,000 members across Oregon. Our work centers around toxics reduction policy to protect human health and ecosystems. Thank you for today's opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 360.

Senate Bill 360 would create a pesticide licensing exemption for Public Applicators using general-use pesticides if they are using battery powered spray equipment with a 5-gallon tank. The bill also requires ODA to develop training materials and requires that an employer be responsible to provide this training material to the pesticide applicator.

In Oregon, a public applicator license is required for individuals employed by state, federal, or local governmental bodies when applying or supervising the application of pesticides. This license is necessary when using restricted-use pesticides or **power-driven** application equipment. To obtain a public applicator license, individuals must pass the *Laws and Safety* exam and at least one category exam.

We are concerned this carve out would also apply to any indoor uses of insecticides, fungicides, termiticides, and other pesticides and uses. For these types of applications, having a license is imperative to ensure applicators understand laws and safety. Creating this exception would also mean that the requirement for continued training to maintain re-license recertification would no longer be in effect. The required ongoing training is critical to maintaining the highest standards for worker safety, best practices of pesticide use, compliance with current laws and regulations.

The type of equipment used (battery powered or otherwise) should not change licensing requirements under Oregon's pesticide control laws. Finally, we are concerned that if passed, this bill would create an unnecessary loophole in Oregon's pesticide control laws and possibly open the door to similar requests for exemptions in other licensing categories.

I strongly urge a **NO PASS** vote for SB 360.