

Submitter: Steven Benner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2679

Dear Representative Lively and Members House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of HB 2679 to classify certain pesticides containing neonicotinoids as restricted-use and to prohibit their application on residential landscapes.

These restrictions are essential to safeguarding those most at risk in our communities from the many harms neonicotinoids can cause. They're also vital to protect pollinators who visit our neighborhood lawns and gardens, and to stop runoff of these toxic pesticides into our waterways.

The negative effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on people and pollinators are well-documented. Research links neonics to a variety of neurological harms. Exposure to neonics while in the womb is linked to birth defects, such as deformations of the heart and brain. Neonicotinoid exposure is also linked to lower testosterone levels and changes metabolism. We cannot allow these toxic chemicals to continue to wreak havoc on Oregon's communities and ecosystems.

We must continue taking steps to safeguard those in our communities most at risk, wildlife, and the ecosystems of our state from the harms of pesticides.

Therefore, I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2679.

Thank you for your consideration on this urgent public health matter.