

Lane County
Audubon
Society



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Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

Please accept these comments on behalf of the Lane County Audubon Society urging you to support House Bill 2679 and protect pollinators. Lane County Audubon Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of and education about our natural environment, with a primary focus on birds and other wildlife and their habitats.

The decline of pollinators is putting ecosystems (and the health of people) at risk. Neonicotinoids are a threat to pollinator populations and play a major role in colony collapse. These pesticides impair pollinators' ability to forage, reproduce, and navigate.

A recent peer reviewed scientific report showed that an increase in neonicotinoid use led to statistically significant reductions in bird biodiversity. Neonics have been shown to contribute to loss of body mass, neurological impairment, delayed migration, and reproductive failure. Not only do neonicotinoids cause direct harm to birds but they decimate the insect food base of many birds, an especially important resource for successfully feeding nestlings. Ironically, the loss of birds and beneficial insects, in turn, increases the surplus of crop pests.

Please join the other 12 states that have restricted neonicotinoids to protect human health, birds, pollinators, waterways, and healthy ecosystems. We urge you to support HB 2679.

Thank you,

Debbie Schlenoff, Ph.D.
Conservation Chair
Lane County Audubon Society