

Submitter: Katherine Lux

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,

My name is Katherine, 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.

I grow blueberries and raspberries for my family. We also have bee houses for native bees. I see the effects when neighbors spray, and it is death.

After applications my neighbors bees swarm my birdbath to drink, and I find many dead in the yard with their tongues sticking out or I find them on the ground circling. I worry for my families air quality and health. We know the valley has a pressure cap that traps these chemicals in our air for long periods. Myself and my neighbors are needing inhalers. I can't go into a HomeDepot because the smell from these chemicals triggers my newly aquired asthma. I have debated moving, for I fear this is not being addressed and they continue to use more of these toxins. When I was a veterinary technician I saw many cases of hives on dogs on only their legs and stomachs, after walking along road sides where this was applied. These chemicals do not go away, but continue to be made airborne, when they churn up the soil in their fields. I know a neighbor whos husband passed away from non hodkins lymphoma, and his favorite activity, taking pride in his lawn which he applied round up regularly. He is gone but his shed still stinks of these chemicals. I know this is just speculation, but I know of a young woman who had a miscarriage, and I was afraid to suggest that having their dog run in the lawns where this is applied and then allowing him in the bed with them is dangerous. People don't realize that they are being exposed. These chemicals are sticky and stay on fur and clothing.

We need to include Oregon with 12 Other States who have already taken action including Washington, California, and Nevada. They 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.

These pesticides impairs 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.

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

Sincerely,
Katherine Lux
Corvallis