

Submitter: Barbara Sklar

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 Barbara Sklar and I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2679 because neonicotinoids are dangerous to the well-being of important pollinators, our waterways and the health of our community.. I have lived in the Willamette Valley for 30 years and have witnessed this decline in pollinators Though I do my best to have a yard filled with native plants , I have seen a decline in bees and other friendly insects that pollinate my fruits and vegetables. it has become increasingly difficult to purchase plants that have not been exposed to neonicotinoids. And then there are the invisible dangers that we often recognize too late: polluted water, smaller crop production, complex, negative health consequences to the most vulnerable.

We would not be alone. 12 other States have already taken action: and limit residential access of these pesticides. Unskilled individuals should not be able to purchase these poisons in big box stores. Pesticide use should be severely restricted to those who are skilled and unable to use an integrated management approach to harmful insects.. If we allow her to do so, nature often has the answer in a balance that requires knowledge and patience. Science has shown us that neocotinoids play a major role in population collapse. We do not need these pesticides in residential areas. We can educate the public about healthy alternatives.

Not only do neonicotinoids affect helpful pollinators but they damage our waterways.. They 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.

Finally, 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,
Barbara Sklar
Eugene, Oregon