

Submitter: Kenton Gould

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2679

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

As a Republican, because it's not just Democrats who care about the environment, I am writing to urge you to vote in favor of HB 2679. This bill would classify certain pesticides containing neonicotinoids as restricted-use and prohibit their application on residential landscapes.

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

The adverse 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 in 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 the most at-risk people in our communities, wildlife, and our state's ecosystems from pesticide harm.

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

I appreciate your consideration on this urgent public health matter.