

Submitter: Laura Brubaker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2679

Dear Representative Golden 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.

Neonicotinoids are classified as highly toxic. Intended to deter chewing and sucking insects from attacking plant foliage, the chemicals stay in the plant but also are presented in expressions of contaminated pollen and nectar - therefore affecting non-chewers, but instead beneficial insects.

As a seed librarian organizer in Jackson county, our community is investing countless hours in packaging seeds and expanding awareness about native plants and pollinators. In addition to learning about the myriad of insects and specifically pollinators in our landscape is our growing awareness of our critical role of providing safe and nourishing environments through safe nectar and pollen resources, shelter, and suitable habitats. Kristine LeFever and OSU Master Gardeners are working diligently to bring our community up to speed with awareness about pollinators and in the process we are learning about chemicals commonly used in our environments that undermine our efforts. Building awareness is good but passing laws to protect those unaware is even better.

Keeping these chemicals from permeating our community can take pressure off vital winged-residents in our community.

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

Thank you for your consideration on this urgent public health matter