

Submitter: Kaitlyn Choate

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2679

My family farms in Scio and we oppose this bill. There is already extensive work at both state and federal levels to ensure safe use and protection of pollinators. We are involved in many grower organizations where we get lots of education on the matter of how to best protect our pollinators. Oregon is already a national leader on pollinator protection efforts, including research, outreach, and regulatory actions. Many applicators currently applying neonicotinoids and other general-use pesticides are not required to purchase and maintain a license. This change would restrict many professional uses currently considered safe by EPA, based on science and evidence. Neonicotinoids vary in terms of their chemical properties, risk profiles, and use patterns. EPA assesses each individual chemistry, and imposes restrictions according to risk. Blanket limitations on an entire class of insecticides have no basis in science and will only lead to substitution risks when applicators including consumers switch back to older products which neonicotinoids were developed to replace.

There are government agencies who are doing research and regulating this already. This bill would have no measurable impact on pollinators but would simply make it harder for pesticide applicators like ourselves to do our job.

The legislature does not have the expertise to regulate pesticides, they should not be deciding which ones to restrict and certainly not legislating against an entire class of chemistries.

As farmers we do everything we can to keep our pollinators safe and healthy because our production of crops is heavily reliant on them being able to do their job, don't make it impossible for us to do our job.