



Mar. 3, 2025

Subject: Please vote yes on HB 2679 to protect bees and other pollinators

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment:

I am writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network - COIN. COIN is made up of Indivisible groups from across Oregon. and has its own Climate Energy Environment (CEE) Team. COIN's CEE Team collaborates with organizations, agencies, and groups across the Pacific Northwest to advocate, in part, for laws and programs that promote and protect our natural world and resources.

Bees and other pollinators are at particular risk from neonicotinoid pesticides.

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/16-023_01_XercesSoc_ExecSummary_How-Neonicotinoids-Can-Kill-Bees_web.pdf Under HB 2679 neonicotinoids would be added to the state's list of "restricted use" pesticides. Users would be required to obtain a pesticide applicator license to purchase and apply neonicotinoids, and their use would be restricted on residential landscapes. This would help reduce the pesticide in areas where bees and other pollinators like to forage.

The toxicity of neonicotinoids is well-established. ODA has received a number of complaints over the years about their danger, and Eugene was the first city in the nation to ban neonicotinoids. Twelve other states already have laws in place to restrict use of neonicotinoids.

Oregon has led some efforts to protect pollinators such as with the Oregon Bee Project, but bees continue to disappear at an alarming rate. Bees are essential for our food security; so many of our crops depend on bee pollination. Bees and other pollinators are also essential to so many ecosystems. We need to eliminate to the extent possible real dangers to their survival. It only makes sense that the Committee move quickly now to restrict neonicotinoids by passing HB 2679.

Please vote yes on HB 2679.

Laura Allen, On Behalf of COIN