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House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court St NE

Salem, OR 97301

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

I am writing to express my concerns regarding proposed legislation that would require a license for applicators using neonicotinoid insecticides. While I support responsible pesticide use and pollinator protection, I believe this bill is unnecessary and counterproductive. Oregon is already a national leader in pollinator protection through extensive research, outreach, and regulatory efforts. Implementing additional restrictions ignores the work that has been done at both the state and federal levels to ensure safe use.

Neonicotinoids are a diverse class of insecticides with varying chemical properties, risk profiles, and application methods. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assesses each neonicotinoid individually and imposes restrictions based on science and risk assessments. A blanket restriction on an entire class of insecticides disregards these scientific evaluations and could lead to unintended consequences, including the increased use of older, potentially more harmful pesticides that neonicotinoids were designed to replace.

Currently, many applicators who use general-use pesticides, including neonicotinoids, are not required to obtain a license. Requiring licensure for these widely used and well-regulated products would place an unnecessary burden on farmers, landscapers, and other professionals, limiting their ability to protect crops and plants effectively. Additionally, the EPA and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) have already implemented significant restrictions on neonicotinoids, including product cancellations, prohibitions, and adjustments to application rates and use sites. This bill would not provide meaningful additional benefits for pollinator health but would instead create regulatory hurdles for pesticide applicators.

Pesticide regulation is a complex issue that requires scientific expertise. The legislature should not attempt to regulate an entire class of chemistries without the necessary knowledge and data to make informed decisions. Agencies such as the EPA and ODA are better equipped to evaluate pesticide safety and implement necessary restrictions based on scientific evidence.

Sincerely,

Erin Hansell-Heideman

Owner/Operator Blown Away Ranch