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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2679

1. Oregon must join 12 other states in restricting neonicotinoids! This bill keeps harmful pesticides away from untrained users and out of retail stores to protect pollinators and our communities.

As a Master Gardener in Lane County, I have encountered many folks who are unaware that bees are harmed by neonics. They do not know how to read labels on pesticide containers, and indeed the print is so small, many cannot even see them. Let's make it easy to keep bees healthy, because we rely on them so much for our food supply. These food web connections may not be obvious to many people who might choose a neonic-containing product, and if they were aware, would choose differently.

2. Protect Oregon's Pollinators! Neonicotinoids play a major role in colony collapse of our delicate pollinator populations. These pesticides impairs pollinators' ability to forage, reproduce, and navigate, putting Oregon's food systems and ecosystems at risk. Bees and other pollinators are stressed with climate matters already. Bees are meant to work a certain number of days and nights during the season, but when the season is longer, they are stressed. Many die before the end of the season, unable to adapt the more days of work.

I have a pollinator friendly yard and indeed, last summer, the hottest on record, I found numbers of dead bees throughout August. I doubt there was a single causative incident, such a neonic application next door, since the deaths went on all month. I suspect it was due to the extended season. Let's minimize stressful settings for bees, and support them, so that we support pollination.

3. Neonicotinoids contaminate waterways! These pesticides are highly water soluble and toxic to fish and aquatic life. Restricting the use of neonicotinoids reduces harmful runoff and protect our waterways. This is so important to Oregon culture. Fish and aquatic life are essential to the Oregon way of life. Let's support that too!