

March 4, 2025



John Lively, Chair
Mark Gamba, Vice Chair
Bobby Levy, Vice Chair
and Committee Members
House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of HB2679, a bill to restrict the use of neonicotinoid insecticides in Oregon. I am very encouraged to see Oregon joining the growing list of states that are taking action to safeguard our essential pollinators. The Pollinator Stewardship Council has been working for 25 years nationally to help protect pollinators from pesticides.

Ever since their first introduction in the United States in 1998, neonicotinoid insecticides have been extremely problematic. The systemic nature of its chemistry allows the insecticide to flow through plants into the pollen and nectar of their flowers. Through the act of pollination, the bee moves pollen from flower to flower and is rewarded with nectar and pollen to use as food. This resource is brought back to the hive for feeding the developing brood, which then all die. It is important to mention that the European Union banned all outdoor uses of neonicotinoids largely due to concerns of pollinator poisoning. In the six years since the ban, no yield decrease has been recorded in their agricultural data. In fact, agricultural yields actually increased after the ban, due to the resurgence of beneficial insects and increased pollination.

Dr. Scott McArt, Associate Professor of Entomology at Cornell University, gave the keynote speech at the national beekeeping conference in Reno, NV this January. His data, obtained from two Canadian provinces with bans on neonicotinoids along with the five years of European Union crop production data before and after the bans, showed that field crop production was not reduced.

Nationally, in 2025 beekeepers are experiencing their worst year ever for bee die-offs, with annual losses expected to reach 70-80%. Neonicotinoid poisoning is the primary driver.

Honeybees are vital for food production in Oregon. It is clearly in the best interests of your state to take measures like these to help safeguard critically essential pollinators.

Thank you for your important work. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

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