

My name is Adelaide Lomax and I live in Portland OR and go to Sunnyside Environmental School. I'm in 7th grade and I'm here to testify in support of House bill 2679 because bees and other pollinators are important to our ecosystem. If you've ever taken a hike or gone to the rose gardens then you've seen bees and other pollinators' hard work. They pollinate about 90 types of crops and they are the backbone of our ecosystem. Without these pollinators, we could no longer enjoy apples, melons, cranberries, pumpkins, squash, broccoli, and more fruits and vegetables. My family and I go on hikes and go to the rose gardens often and I've seen bees work in action, inspiring me to help protect them. We would not be able to enjoy these places without bees. I'm asking you to please stop using neonicotinoid insecticides and to add them to the list of restricted-use pesticides. Bees are a critical part of our ecosystem and we need to protect them. Currently the International Union for Conservation of Nature, lists 156 species of bees as vulnerable, 20 as endangered, and 11 as critically endangered globally. Neonicotinoid insecticides are one of the

biggest killers of bees. I learned through EarthJustice, a nonprofit organization that focuses on climate/environmental issues about how “A growing body of studies show that neonics, even in low doses, impair bees’ ability to navigate. The foraging worker bees that come into contact with the pesticide may get disoriented, flying around until they eventually run out of gas, lost in the field. With a loss of worker bees bringing food back to the hive, the entire colony suffers.” We need to protect bees and one way to do that is to support House Bill 2679. Thank you for hearing my testimony. Let's work together to ban insecticides like these.