

Submitter: Ingrid Haugo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2679

My name is Ingrid and I am in 8th grade in Portland Oregon. I am writing in support of house bill 2679. There are several significant reasons to regulate the use of neonicotinoids in residential landscapes. These pesticides are a huge threat to many pollinators and play a large role in the devastating decline in many of their populations. Specifically they have a very harmful effect on bees. Exposure to these common chemicals damages juvenile bees' brains, causes them to lose sense of direction, makes them more susceptible to disease and much more often resulting in death. Unlike other endangered animals, we are directly tied to bees, relying on them and other pollinators for around one third of the food we eat. Just last year almost 40% of honeybees were lost, twice as much as what they can naturally recover from. Having bees continue to die at these rates is not an option. While the fight to save bees is just as complex as it is important, restricting these harmful pesticides is a clear and vital step forward that has been proven to work before. 12 other states have taken steps to restrict their use including Washington and California. Neonicotinoids don't just impact pollinators either, they are also toxic to many other animals as well as humans. Exposure to neonics for people has been linked to neurological harm as well as birth defects. Another reason these chemicals are so harmful is once they are in the soil they can spread, contaminating many other plants and making it into the waterways. They also last for a long period of time, negatively affecting animals that come near areas they were used to months after application. Today neonicotinoids are a popular insecticide because of how inexpensive and effective they are, and currently in much of Oregon regular citizens and homeowners are allowed to use them, many times without knowledge of the extensive ecological damage they do. This bill also only applies to residential property so it will not affect farms who may depend on using these specific pesticides. As we can see, the negative impacts of these chemicals far outweigh the positives and so I encourage you to make the right choice and pass this bill to help protect our interconnected ecosystems for future generations. Thank you very much.