



## No on HB 2679

HB 2679 proposes an **unnecessary restriction on neonicotinoids**, an entire class of pesticides with many active ingredients and hundreds of registered products. Meanwhile, the US EPA and Oregon Department of Agriculture have already taken steps to protect pollinators from pesticides, including neonicotinoids. **State restrictions on pesticides should be based on science and evidence; this bill is based on neither.**

- **EPA is addressing issues of risk with neonicotinoids:** EPA has already implemented mitigations to protect pollinators, humans, and the environment, particularly since concerns about colony health arose. Changes include product cancellations, including some residential uses, rate reductions, and crop stage restrictions (see [Pollinator Health, pesticides](#), and [Neonics](#)). ODA has also addressed issues through regulatory actions including certain prohibitions on use.
- **Current risk mitigations work:** A 2021 report prepared for the Washington legislature by the WA Department of Agriculture states that no pollinator deaths resulting from neonicotinoid use occurred in the previous seven years. “...WSDA has not found significant regulatory evidence that current neonicotinoid use patterns harm bees or pollinators in Washington” (p 5 of [this report](#)).
- **Neonicotinoids vary widely in properties. Blanket approaches to their regulation have no scientific justification and introduce greater risks.** More risks are introduced by a blanket approach, which would restrict many uses where the product and use pattern are the safest available product for human, bird, and aquatic health, as well as beneficial insects *including pollinators*.
- **Oregon is a leader in the nation on pollinator stewardship efforts through the [Oregon Bee Project](#)**, much of which is funded by industry through pesticide registration dollars. OSU also has an extensive [pollinator health research and extension program](#), in partnership with commodity groups, master gardeners, Oregon Beekeepers, ODA and others.

While pesticides play a factor in pollinator health, those risks are already managed based on extensive risk assessments, product restrictions, and label guidance that protects pollinators. Bigger threats to pollinators include habitat changes and colony illness due to pathogens and parasites. **A no vote will ensure this unnecessary restriction does not ignore decades of scientific work.**

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