



COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Testimony in Support of HB 2679

March 4th, 2025

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Gamba, Vice Chair Levy, and members of the Committee,

As a Legislator who cares about reducing toxins in environments and ensuring we have healthy communities in which our children can grow and thrive, I write to you in support of HB 2679, a bill that requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture to restrict the usage of neonicotinoid chemicals and prevents the application of neonicotinoid pesticides to residential landscapes. I appreciate Rep. Hudson's work on this topic.

Approximately 75% of the world's flowering plants and 35% of global food crops rely on animal pollinators for reproduction, and these vital species are in serious decline. A major contributor to this decline is the widespread use of insecticides, particularly neonicotinoids.¹ These chemicals are considered "systemic" pesticides, meaning they can be applied to the soil around a plant's roots or as a coating on seeds.

I have witnessed the devastating impact of the improper use of these pesticides firsthand. In 2013, in Wilsonville—my district—over fifty thousand bees were killed in what became the largest native bumblebee die-off in the country, caused by the harmful misapplication of dinotefuran, a neonicotinoid pesticide.²

By passing HB 2679, Oregon would require anyone purchasing or applying neonicotinoids to obtain a license, and the use of these pesticides would be restricted on residential properties. This would help prevent countless pollinator deaths and ensure that Oregon remains a state that protects both its pollinators and its crops.

I urge your support of HB 2679.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Representative Courtney Neron | House District 26: King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Wilsonville

Source(s)

¹ **Cambridge University.** "Pollinator Risk Index." *University of Cambridge*, <https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/pollinatorsriskindex>.

² **Xerces Society.** "Wilsonville Bee Kill." *Xerces Society*, <https://xerces.org/wilsonville-bee-kill>.