

## **Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA)**

### **House Bill 3915**

**March 25, 2025**

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Cassidy Kotter, and I am a Government Relations Specialist with the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA), which represents over 25,000 classified employees in all 36 counties across Oregon. Our members include custodians, maintenance workers, instructional assistants, administrative staff, bus drivers, nutrition workers, and others who play a crucial role in keeping Oregon's schools running smoothly. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 3915.

House Bill 3915 directs the State Department of Agriculture to develop and maintain a model list of low-impact pesticides for use with school integrated pest management (IPM) plans. The intent of this legislation is to promote safer pest control methods within educational institutions, thereby reducing potential exposure to harmful chemicals for students and staff.

OSEA acknowledges the importance of effective pest management in schools to ensure the health and safety of both students and staff. Our members, particularly those involved in facility maintenance and operations, play a crucial role in implementing IPM practices. It is essential that any guidelines or model lists developed are practical, evidence-based, and consider the on-the-ground realities faced by school employees responsible for pest management.

We recognize that the development of a model list of low-impact pesticides could provide valuable guidance to school districts in selecting safer pest control options. However, it is important that such a list remains adaptable to the diverse needs and circumstances of schools across Oregon. Flexibility will allow school districts to address specific pest challenges effectively while adhering to the overarching principles of IPM.

Furthermore, the successful implementation of any new guidelines will depend significantly on the availability of resources and training for school staff. Adequate support and professional development opportunities are necessary to equip our members with the knowledge and skills required to implement updated IPM strategies effectively.

In conclusion, OSEA remains committed to supporting initiatives that enhance the safety and well-being of Oregon's students and school employees. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 3915 and look forward to collaborating with

stakeholders to ensure that any developments in school pest management are practical, effective, and supportive of the professionals tasked with their implementation.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Kotter

Government Relations Specialist, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA)