

**Testimony to the House Committee On Education
re: HB 3915****April 1, 2025****Crystal Weston, Environmental Health Program Director
Oregon Environmental Council**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Re: Oregon Environmental Council support for HB 3915

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of its thousands of members throughout the state, Oregon Environmental Council writes to express our support for HB 3915 as well as our appreciation for Representative Hudson's leadership in authoring this legislation.

HB 3915 ensures school districts have access to an important resource about low impact pesticides which can be used for district Integrated Pest Management plans. This is important for several reasons: protecting children, preserving the environment, and reducing redundancy and promoting efficient government operations.

- HB 3915 protects children. Low impact pesticides, according to ORS 634.700(4) and ORS 634.705(5) are pesticides that do not have the EPA signal words of "warning" or "danger" on the label and are not listed carcinogens. Common sense supports the idea that children should not go to school and come back with a new book and a higher risk of cancer, or a stopover at the local emergency room from a dangerous pesticide.
- HB 3915 preserves the natural environment from particularly harmful pesticides. Let's make sure children at school can play on clean grounds and learn in safe school gardens, safe from particularly dangerous chemicals that can cause symptoms such as shortness of breath, asthma exacerbations, skin reactions, and neurological dysfunction.
- HB 3915 saves money. Existing stature (ORS 634.705 (5)) [specifies criteria](#) that a governing body (such as a school district) must use to create a list of low-impact pesticides for use with their required Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans. Failing to support an entity such as Oregon State University in [maintaining the low impact pesticide list](#) implies that every single school district throughout Oregon should create and maintain their own list of low impact pesticides—which would cost districts more money.

Thank you for considering this important legislation and Oregon Environmental Council's testimony on supporting safe schools and fiscally responsible solutions.

Sincerely,

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