



Photo by Jenna Lee

Pollinator and Wildlife Protection

Bees and other pollinators are vital to our environment, supporting more than 80% of wild plants and crops like apples, cherries and blueberries. Yet, they're in crisis. With one in four bee species at risk of extinction and over 100 bird and fish species in need of conservation in Oregon, the stakes are high for the future of ecosystems.

Over a decade of research has shown that neonicotinoid insecticides are a major culprit in the die-off of pollinators and other wildlife. So far, 12 other states have stepped up to restrict use of these chemicals, including Washington and California.

House Bill 2679 would add neonicotinoid insecticides to Oregon's list of restricted-use pesticides. This designation would require an Oregon Pesticide Applicator License to purchase and apply them. Additionally, the bill would prohibit the application of these pesticides on residential landscapes, except in emergency cases, such as treating an invasive pest.

A silent threat poisoning wildlife

Neonicotinoids are more than just a bee problem—they are a systemic threat to Oregon's ecosystems and economy. Once applied, these pesticides infiltrate plant tissues, accumulating in pollen and nectar where they poison pollinators.

Worse, their chemical residues can persist for years, seeping into soil and waterways. This long-term contamination endangers a host of species, including freshwater snails, butterflies, fish, birds, and other wildlife critical to Oregon's natural balance.

Breaking the cycle

Oregon can join 12 other states that have already restricted neonicotinoid sales to licensed applicators and removed them from consumer-accessible shelves.

HB 2679 would protect pollinators and wildlife in Oregon by:

- Requiring a pesticide applicator license to purchase and apply neonicotinoids.
- Restricting their use on residential properties, with limited exceptions.
- Allowing necessary uses for agricultural production, structural pest control, veterinary purposes and medical treatments.

Oregon already restricts more than 400 dangerous pesticides from general consumer use — neonicotinoids should be no exception. Safer, lower-toxicity alternatives exist for household and garden needs.

By taking action, we can protect pollinators, wildlife and our environment for generations to come.

Support HB2679 to protect pollinators and wildlife

