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Press Kit: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>



## Press Release

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### March 8<sup>th</sup> Lobby Day in Salem for the Safe Public Places Act

Beyond Toxics calls for a show of support for Integrated Pest Management protocols in managing pests by state agencies and public universities

**Eugene, OR (2/28/2013)**

Beyond Toxics, a Eugene-based statewide environmental health organization, is holding a Lobby Day in Salem on Friday, March 8, 2013. This event is an opportunity for supporters from around the state to speak with legislators about pesticide reform on state lands. Our intention is to show state governmental leaders that there is widespread public support for the passage of a State Integrated Pest Management law.

**Beyond Toxics will hold a press conference in the Capitol Press Room at 10 AM on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Speaking: Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics; Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer and rural residents**

Pesticides are a public and environmental health problem, linked to chronic health problems and environmental damage. That's why, in 2009, Oregon adopted a law (sponsored by Beyond Toxics) to reduce toxic pesticides at all schools by using the industry standard protocol, known as Integrated Pest Management, or IPM. Beyond Toxics believes it is time for the State of Oregon to do the same for **all** public places. If the schools can do it, so can state agencies, office buildings and parks.

The [Safe Public Places Act](#) (HB 3364) will require the State to adopt a health and environment protective standard when managing pests, such as insects and weeds, by considering least toxic methods first, and using pesticides only when necessary to get the job done. The proposed IPM policy for the State of Oregon applies only to **public property, not to private land**.

"We're thrilled to have the support of so many legislators," said Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics. "These early leaders are showing Oregonians that the legislature is serious about making progress on this long overdue reform in how pesticide use is managed by our state government. We need to keep our children safe from exposure in our state parks and public buildings."

IPM is a science-based, proven approach to protect our health, preserve the environment and ensure our rivers continue to support salmon and provide safe drinking water. IPM would also help us meet our state's pollution reduction goals and help Oregon remain a national leader in environmental policies.

You can read the bill here: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/hb3300.dir/hb3364.intro.pdf>

For more background about the issue and March 8<sup>th</sup> Lobby Day details, visit: [www.SafePublicPlaces.org](http://www.SafePublicPlaces.org) or call Alison Guzman: (541) 465-8860. For more about Beyond Toxics: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>.