

EARL BLUMENAUER
THIRD DISTRICT, OREGON

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1502 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4811
FAX: (202) 225-8941

DISTRICT OFFICE:
729 N.E. OREGON STREET
SUITE 115
PORTLAND, OR 97232
(503) 231-2300
FAX: (503) 230-5413

website: blumenauer.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2015

To the Honorable Chair Witt and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing today to applaud the efforts of the Oregon Task Force on Pollinator Health and Representative Jeff Reardon to introduce legislation to protect and improve pollinator health. HBs 3360, 3361, 3362 and HCR 9 take important steps to recognize the importance of pollinators in Oregon, increase public knowledge on pollinator health and improve data collection to provide clear solutions to proactively protect pollinator health.

Honey bees and native bees jointly provide U.S. agriculture an estimated \$18 to \$27 billion in pollination service annually, and one out of every three bites of food people eat is from a crop pollinated by bees. It is imperative that we take a step back to make sure we understand all the factors involved in bee population decline and move swiftly to protect our pollinators, and you have the opportunity to take action to do that today.

Pollinator protection is an issue I've championed in Congress, and I recently reintroduced the Saving America's Pollinators Act, which would suspend the use of certain bee-toxic insecticides until further review by the EPA.

I am pleased that these bills will support Oregon State University and the Oregon State University Extension Service for research, education, and partnership with Oregon Department of Agriculture. We should continue to support partnerships such as these that create opportunities for Oregon to lead the way on research efforts, and strengthen this core agricultural research institution.

I urge the committee to vote yes to advance HBs 3360, 3361, 3362 and HCR 9 for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl Blumenauer".

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress