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March 18, 2015

TO: Representative Brad Witt, Chair, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Members, House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

FR: Rikki Seguin, Lead Advocate, Environment Oregon

RE: Support of HB 3360, HB 3361, HB 3362, and HCR 9

As the lead advocate for Environment Oregon, I represent over 40,000 members and supporters across the state. Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization. **We support HB 3360, HB 3361, HB 3362, and HCR 9.**

Addressing the rising concern of pollinator health is a top concern of Environment Oregon members. Millions of bees are dying off, with alarming consequences for our environment and our food supply. In recent years, beekeepers report they're losing on average 30% of all honeybee colonies each winter — twice the loss considered economically tolerable. We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90% of most of the world's food.¹

We must commit resources to research and education on this topic. By doing so, Oregon can make a real contribution to local, national, and global pollinator health research, meaning huge payoffs for our ecosystem health and agriculture economy. For these reasons, we urge you to vote in favor of HB 3360, HB 3361, HB 3362, and HCR 9.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
<http://www.fao.org/ag/magazine/0512sp1.htm>