



**OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
NURSERIES™**

HB 3362

**The Oregon Association of
Nurseries recommends
voting**

YES

The Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN) is a non-profit trade association that represents more than 900 wholesale plant growers, Christmas tree growers, retailers, and greenhouse operators. Our members are located throughout the state, with our largest nursery growing operations found in Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Yamhill and Multnomah Counties.

The OAN is the main voice for Oregon's nursery and greenhouse industry.

The nursery industry is Oregon's #1 agricultural sector, ranking #3 in the nation with annual sales exceeding \$766 million.

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Floor Letter

House Bill 3362

Relating to recommended policies on pollinator health

Oregon farmers depend on bees to pollinate many of their crops. They also depend on pesticides as tools to control destructive pests. Similarly, commercial beekeepers rely on healthy crops to optimize their pollination services. This means that Oregon growers and beekeepers have a lot at stake in this conversation. Both of us want to make sure that protecting bee health, and retaining pesticides as an effective tool, are not mutually exclusive.

Oregon can serve as a model to pass proactive and positive legislation

The "Report to the Oregon Legislative Assembly" by the Task Force on Pollinator Health was released in November 2014. The consensus approach through the Task Force on Pollinator Health has produced three good bills, worthy of your consideration and support – HB 3362 is one of them.

What does HB 3362 do?

HB 3362 develops a strong, effective outreach and education strategy on pollinator health, including best management practices. This is critical for both the growing and consumer populations to protect pollinators.

- Directs Oregon State University and Oregon Department of Agriculture to develop a pesticide safety plan
- Directs fees from pesticide registration toward educational materials and best management practice training
- Directs ODA to develop a bee incident reporting system
- Directs a small fee on bee colony registration for research on honeybees and native bees.

The nursery industry needs pollinators and tools to battle pest and disease

As a proud part of U.S. agriculture, we certainly understand the importance of pollinators to the agricultural industry and our natural environment. Much of the debate this year has been over concerns around pesticide use and potential effects on bees are very important to all pesticide users, but especially those involved in agriculture. The OAN continues to work with state and national stakeholders to ensure that science and fiscal resources are allocated to protect pollinators. The association has supported local research funding for Oregon State University through the Specialty Crop Block Grant program as well as the \$69 million in proposed pollinator health funding within the U.S. Department of Agriculture budget.

The Oregon Association of Nurseries encourages you to support HB 3362 as a signal of your continuing commitment to protecting pollinators and supporting the work of the Task Force on Pollinator Health.

The OAN urges you to vote YES on House Bill 3362

From the desk of Rep. Jeff Reardon

