

HB 2533 and -1 Amendments
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Hearing Room D
February 28, 2017

Comments and Considerations for HB 2533 and -1 Amendments

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA), representing Oregon's commercial and hobbyist beekeepers, supports the adoption of HB 2533 and the -1 amendments. The adoptions will make housekeeping changes to existing law ORS 602.

Beekeepers and many others supported the adoption of HB 3362 in 2015 that added to ORS 602, new requirements for the registration and payment of fees for honeybee colonies. The Department of Justice has since concluded, that the current wording in ORS 602, for hive registration and fees, applies to both production and **nucleus** colonies. It was never the intent of any of the stakeholders in 2015 for **nucleus** colonies to be assessed a fee.

The OSBA, Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Farm Bureau requested that Representative Reardon assist us in adding language to ORS 602 to clearly exempt **nucleus** colonies. Unfortunately the current version of HB 2533 was (is) not exactly what is needed so the -1 amendment was drafted. We thank him for his assistance.

Besides adding a definition for and specifically exempting **nucleus** colonies, other changes in the -1 amendment, clarify the language, requirements and limitations on the assessment of registration fees for honeybee colonies.

The OSBA appreciates and thanks you for the opportunity to appear before you and requests that you support HB 2533 and the -1 amendments.

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