

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to you as a member of Pollinator Project Rogue Valley to let you know that we SUPPORT HB 2469. Not only do we believe that every resident in Oregon has the right to determine if, how and where genetically engineered crops are grown in their county or town, we are very concerned about the impacts ge crops and their associated pesticide use has on our pollinators. As you may have heard, one out of 3 bites of our food on our plates happens because of pollination services provided by bees and other insects. These pollinators - honey bees, native bees, butterflies, and more - are already at great risk, and pesticides play a major role in that decline.

Here is one study that illustrates the impact of glyphosate on honey bees. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup, which has been used by farmers on and around their ge crops for 20 years, since many of the ge crops are genetically modified to not die when sprayed with the pesticide. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26333931>

Here is another study that addresses the contamination of honey, affecting eaters and of course the livelihood of the beekeepers who are selling contaminated honey. <http://www.beeculture.com/catch-buzz-honey-samples-found-herbicide-residues/>

As Roundup (glyphosate) has now lost its efficacy against many weeds, farmers are beginning to transition to other, even more toxic forms of herbicides. These chemicals will also impact our pollinators, and thus our food supply.

Please vote Yes to insure that our Oregon farmers can choose whether or not to allow the growing of ge crops in their locale. Please vote yes to protect our bees, beekeepers, and other pollinators. Please vote YES to pass HB 2469 this 2017 session.

Thank you.

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*Ashland, Oregon*