

Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street Northeast
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 929

Dear Senators,

We are writing on behalf of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation (Xerces) to express our support for Oregon SB 929. Xerces is an international nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat.

Xerces has the largest pollinator conservation team worldwide and is based in Portland, with offices throughout the United States. Our Pollinator Conservation staff has trained more than 60,000 integrated pest management professionals and others in pollinator conservation methods, and has partnered with farmers and agriculture agencies to create more than 400,000 acres of pollinator habitat in the United States. Furthermore, Xerces wrote *How Neonicotinoids Can Kill Bees*, an update to our comprehensive literature review outlining the risks of neonicotinoids to pollinators. It is with this extensive knowledge of pollinators that we support SB 929.

Mounting evidence demonstrates the devastating effects that long-lived, toxic neonicotinoids can have on pollinators and broader ecological diversity. While not the only driver in pollinator decline, neonicotinoids are part of the problem and their risks must be mitigated if we are to help restore both native and managed bee populations.

SB 929 is a reasonable response to help minimize the risks that neonicotinoids pose. More specifically, classifying neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides and providing educational materials for pesticide applicators and the public will reduce harm to pollinators.

SB 929 is to be lauded and we thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Aimee Code
Pesticide Program Director

Sarah Hoyle
Pesticide Program Specialist