

From: Kenda Swartz
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Please support SB 929, the Oregon Pollinator Protection Act
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 12:47:05 AM

Dear Senate Committee for Environment and Natural Resources,

I am writing today because of my adoration and respect for bees. Just this morning, I found a blue orchard mason bee who had just emerged from her cocoon. She was covered in mites, and I spent about an hour gently scraping them off of her. These bees are so docile, she allowed me to do it. She even helped by working her legs as I dislodged the mites from her body. I placed her in a blooming plant and hoped for the best. This is because while she's safe in my yard, there's no saying what could happen if she leaves. There are people in my community who use pesticide sprays, because this is what they've been doing their entire adult lives. They simply do not see the connection between their actions and the negative impact on our precious wildlife, particularly our disappearing bees.

Oregon's native pollinators are now some of the most elusive species in the entire Pacific Northwest. For example, our Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly, Franklin's Bumblebee, and even the Western Bumblebee populations have rapidly disappeared across Oregon's landscape. Not only are we destroying crucial pollinator habitat, but people are indiscriminately spraying highly toxic and systemic neonicotinoid-containing pesticides. Neonicotinoids have been strongly linked to the decline in bee survival. This ecological catastrophe puts our ecosystems and food systems in peril. It is urgent that Oregon take action NOW to save bees from extinction! The Oregon Pollinator Protection Act will prevent homeowners from reaching for bee-killing pesticides on store shelves and bringing these poisons home. This will make a significant difference in the survival of native bees across the state! The last place for dangerous and persistent poisons is in the yards of Oregon homeowners.

Please, help protect Oregon's landscape by adding much-needed protections for our keystone pollinator species. Protecting Oregon's pollinators from highly toxic pesticides not only protects Oregonians from a future free of flowers but it protects an essential part of biodiversity and our food sovereignty.

What would we tell the children if one day there are no butterflies or bees for them to admire? We have the ability now to do the right thing before it's too late. Will you help make that happen? Will you be on the right side of history with this decision? I put our future in your hands.

Sincerely,

Kenda Swartz Pepper
Jacksonville, Oregon

“And then the day came
when the risk to remain tight in a bud
was more painful than
the risk it took to blossom.”
~Anaïs Nin

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