

From: Jeff Boesch
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 929
Date: Friday, March 24, 2017 9:10:43 AM

Dear Senate Committee for Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Jeff Boesch and I am an Organic Fruit and Vegetable farmer in Gold Hill, Oregon. My wife Anna Boesch and I own 50 acres of land that we call Wandering Roots Farm. We sell to Farmer's Markets, Restaurants, and retail stores. I am writing today to show my support for SB 929. Bees and other native pollinators are of the utmost importance to keep alive and thriving, so we can continue to grow many fruits and vegetables. Wandering Roots Farm relies on bees to pollinate our fruit trees, berries and other fruits and vegetables that have flowers. They are also very important for seed production. 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.

Seven major bee die-offs occurred in Oregon just two years ago – in each case, the investigation conducted by the Department of Agriculture concluded that the cause of the deaths of hundreds of thousands of bees was due to exposure to Neonicotinoids. Neonicotinoids are the most widely sold pesticides in the US – they are the active ingredient in common garden and lawn products. Neonicotinoids are water soluble and systemic pesticides, meaning they are taken up in the vascular system of a treated plant, thereby rendering the whole plant toxic. Systemic pesticides don't wash off. The toxic ingredients become part of the nectar, the pollen, and even the moisture, or sweat, of the plant. Bees are poisoned as they pollinate flowers.

The harm from Neonicotinoids does not stop at the flowers and plants not be pollinated. It is also affecting our water, where we rely on fish as a source of food. Studies have found that higher levels of neonicotinoids in water reduced the levels of aquatic invertebrates, which are the main food for a whole range of species including wading birds, trout and salmon. Every year new reports conclusively show that neonicotinoids – the world's most widely used pesticides – cause major damage to biodiversity and ecosystems.

Neonicotinoids are affecting ecosystems at levels much lower than what is indicated on the pesticide labels. Unsuspecting homeowners making applications to lawns and gardens and to trees, result in neonicotinoids entering creeks and wetlands through runoff, leaching, and drift. In fact, EPA's incident records show that runoff from one urban lawn application in Ohio killed 3,000 crayfish in a nearby stream! Just one application of these pesticides can stay active in soil and water for 10 years and continue to harm our soil microorganisms and aquatic species.

Please pass the Oregon Pollinator Protection Act (SB929). Help protect our food system and environment so that we can provide nurturing food to our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jeff Boesch