



**Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp Supporting SB 929:  
*Proposed Legislation Limits Use of Products Containing Powerful Class  
of Pesticides Shown to Be Harmful to Pollinators and Ag Industry***

Scheduled for public hearing on March 27, 2017, before the  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

**Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Members of the Committee:**

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of SB 929, which requires the Oregon Department of Agriculture to classify neonicotinoids as restricted-use pesticides and to limit the sale and use of pesticide products containing neonicotinoids. Additionally and perhaps equally as important, the proposed legislation requires that information concerning restrictions on neonicotinoid use be included in educational materials developed by Oregon State University and the Department of Agriculture.

The City of Wilsonville was the site in June 2013 of reportedly the largest pollinator bumble bee-kill in the history of the United States—a distinction that our community does not relish—due to the application of neonicotinoid pesticides by trained professional applicators. This powerful class of pesticides has been shown conclusively to harm pollinators throughout the life-cycle of the product, with detrimental effects continuing long after initial treatment since plants take-up the pesticide into their tissues.

The environmental impact of neonicotinoids has come under increasing scrutiny worldwide. In 2014, the European Union banned the use of three types of neonicotinoid pesticides in crops that attract bees. While SB 929 does not ban the use of neonicotinoids, placing restrictions on the use of this powerful class of pesticides can reduce chances of bee kills.

Many local, Wilsonville-area farming and nursery businesses are dependent upon pollinator health for propagation of key nut, fruit and vegetable crops. Pacific Natural Foods, a major national organic food-processor with substantial employment and operations in Tualatin and Wilsonville, is dependent on healthy populations of pollinators for successfully farming over 1,000 acres in the Willamette Valley.

The Department of Agriculture found that four separate bumble bee-kill incidents in 2013 and three separate bee-kill incidents in 2014 were due to applications of neonicotinoid pesticides. The City notes that each of these pollinator-killing incidents was brought about by the use of neonicotinoid insecticides by duly licensed pesticide applicators — technicians trained in correct pesticide application who readily used the pesticides since their use was not restricted sufficiently.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on SB 929. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tim Knapp, Mayor  
City of Wilsonville