

From: Jeanne Roy
To: [SENRR Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 929
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Jeanne Roy
6805 SW 12th Ave.
Portland, OR 97219

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Subject: SB 929

Dear Committee:

I strongly favor SB 929, which requires the State Department of Agriculture to classify neonicotinoids as restricted use pesticides.

One-third of Oregon's food production rely on bees for pollination. Yet bees are declining, and one of the causes is the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. Small amounts of exposure can kill bees on contact, and one application of neonicotinoids can remain toxic to pollinators for more than six years. Neonicotinoids migrate into water, poisoning beneficial insects in streams.

In 2015 Oregon passed legislation to require pollinator protection education for licensed pesticide applicators. That effort may decrease the number of acute bee-kill incidents in professional settings. However, the 2015 legislation does not address the long-term persistence of neonicotinoids or the harm they cause to native pollinators and water quality.

Because neonicotinoids are so highly toxic and bio-persistent, they need to be kept out of the hands of untrained consumers. More than 20 states, cities, federal agencies and universities have already taken steps to restrict neonicotinoids, including Portland, Eugene and Milwaukie. It's time for Oregon to pass this legislation.

Yours truly,
Jeanne B. Roy