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To: [SENR Exhibits](#); Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us; Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us; Sen.HermanBaertschiger@state.or.us; [Sen Prozanski](#); [Sen Roblan](#); [Sen DeBoer](#)
Subject: SB 929, Oregon Pollinator Protection Act
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 11:26:08 PM

Senators,

I know you have many, many people coming to you to talk about so many important topics, important to the lives of all Oregonians. So maybe it seems strange that you are being asked to spend time on insects!

I would like to start my comments with a sincere and heart-felt thank you to MY Representative Pam Marsh and also to Senator Prozanski for realizing that yes, we have a crucial, life-and-death issue before us - for all of us and for the planet as we know it.

There is one thing that we can do right now to help save Oregon's pollinators. With your help, we can classify neonicotinoid insecticides as Restricted Use Pesticides. You have heard, and will continue to hear, about how these systemic pesticides are harming all of us.

So, let's take a break from that for just a moment. I'd like you to think of, or maybe find memories of, beautiful and verdant gardens, meadows, farmland, parks, rivers and streams. Think about sitting beside a stream on a warm summer day, listening to the sound of birds, the drone of bees, the splash of a fish.

I am betting there are insects in that mental image! Insects are one of the lowest common denominators of all life. And without our pollinators - bees, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles - there are no seeds for the next generation - of *any* species! Insects mean birds, insects mean fish, insects mean bountiful gardens and farms, insects mean trees and shrubs in our landscapes that provide shade, filter rainwater, and keep our mountainsides where we want them. Insects also mean a vibrant economy - think vegetables, fruit, meat and dairy, tourism - and taxes.

People all over the world are waking up to the fact that we need our pollinators, and are getting excited about these beautiful and amazing creatures, and wanting to DO something to save them, before its too late. It's a paradigm shift but one that we are dependent upon.

So, its simple. Its time to take action to protect our pollinators. Please pass SB 929, the Oregon Pollinator Protection Act.

Thank you.
Kristina Lefever
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