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March 27, 2017

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Senate Bill 929

Dear Chairman Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

Far West Agribusiness Association is a 57-year-old regional trade association with over 120 business members within the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada. Our members are primarily retailers who sell crop protection products, fertilizers and agronomic services to farmers for the many commodities they produce. In addition, we have wholesalers, applicators, and equipment dealers as members. We also administer the NW Regional Certified Crop Adviser program for those states plus Alaska and British Columbia.

We write today to share our comments on Senate Bill 929, of which we oppose. The bill requires the classification of neonicotinoid's to be listed as a "restricted" use pesticide. The Environmental Protection Agency already made the restricted use determination for FIFRA products at the federal level which provides for consistency through the United States. Those pesticides that are determined to be restricted then require the special license and training necessary to apply the product. The licensing requirement equally applies to the producer and to the custom applicator, so SB 929 is redundant and unneeded.

We urge you to not pass SB 929 out of the committee and very much appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments and recommendation. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or concerns either directly or through Amanda Dalton at 503-884-0415; amanda@daltonadvocacy.com

Sincerely,

James F. Fitzgerald
Executive Director