

Dewey M. Caron
15965 SW Queen Victoria Pl
Portland OR 97224

Hi. My Name is Dewey M. Caron. I am a resident of King City. I am asking for your support of SB 929, The Oregon Pollinator Protection Act. I intend to attend the hearing Monday March 27th, 3PM, Hearing Room C

SB 929 is designed to restrict use of neonicotinoid insecticides for homeowner purchase and use by placing them in restricted use category, requiring pesticide applicator training before use. It will not change usage of these pesticides by professional applicators, farmers or veterinarians who are licensed to use restricted use pesticides. I conducted pesticide use training in my last position as Professor and Extension Entomologist in Delaware and I can attest to the rigor and thoroughness of such training before certifying use of restricted use pesticides.

In Oregon there was a massive kill of over 50,000+ bumble bees in the parking lot of a Target store in Wilsonville on a Sunday morning in mid May 2013. They were foraging that morning on flowering linden trees shading the parking lot. The trees were sprayed with dinotefuran, one of 6 common neonicotinoids. The spray was directed to kill aphids and scale insects feeding on those same trees because these sap-feeding insects excrete the majority of the plant sap they suck up to get rid of the excess sugar they take in. We know their exudate as honey dew. Customers of the store know it as the "sticky stuff" that sticks to car windshields.

Former governor Kitzhaber appointed a 2014 OR Legislature Task Force following the unfortunate killing of these bumble bees. By September of 2014, this Task Force sent a couple of consensus opinions to the Legislature that called for expansion of pollinator outreach and education, and support for new research on pollinator health. Other recommendations in their report did not result in a consensus but were included in the report: task force report at: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/201311/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/41335>

Three Oregon House Bills, numbers 3361, 3362, and 2653, were passed in 2015 based on the Task Force recommendations for improvement of bee and pollinator health. The full text of HBs 3361, 3362 and 2653 may be accessed at: https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws. HB 3362 in particular directed development of educational materials and an outreach and education plan outlining the best practices for industry and the general public in the use of pesticides. It additionally directed development of a safety plan for pesticide applicators that

protects honey, bumble, native bees and other pollinators toward avoiding adverse effects of pesticides on pollinator populations.

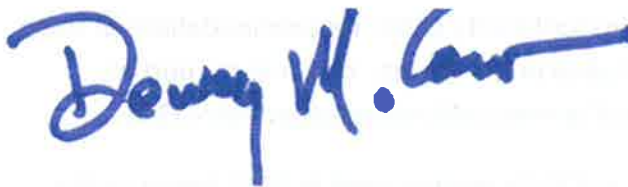
The Oregon Department of Agriculture placed restrictions on two neonicotinoids, dinetofuran and imidachlorprid, and fined the applicator for misuse of the pesticide. Other similar, though less dramatic kills, have been reported (in 2013 and in subsequent years) resulting in unnecessary killing of bees and pollinators from use of the neonicotinoids.

We need to do more as the neonicotinoids are tough on honey, bumble and native bees and are persistent in soil and water. EPA has inadequate evaluation of this group of systemic pesticides. Pending lawsuits by beekeepers and environmental groups, particularly in the 9th circuit Court of Appeals, are requiring re-valuations of this category of pesticides. SB 929 will address one aspect of action that will remove ready access to these compounds to homeowners. I urge endorsement of positive committee action on SB929.

Background: I am a retired University Professor and Oregon resident since 2009. I spent 1969 to 2009 as faculty member at Cornell University, University of Maryland and University of Delaware. My specialty is Entomology (insects), Wildlife Ecology (interrelationships of organisms) and Apiculture (Beekeeping). I am an Emeritus Professor of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology from University of Delaware and an Affiliate Faculty in Horticulture at Oregon State University (non-compensated courtesy position). I am past vice-president of the Oregon State Beekeepers Association and member of OR State and local bee associations in Oregon, Delaware and several other states.

This support of SB 929 is not on behalf, nor endorsed, by any beekeeping organization, nor University, past or present. I offer these comments as a citizen of Oregon.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dewey H. Law". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.