

From: Arwen McGilvra
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Please Oppose SB 928 and SB 929
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 4:00:08 PM

Dear Chair Dembrow,

Since I was unable to make the committee hearing on these bills, I wanted to drop you a note to encourage you to OPPOSE both SB 928 and SB929.

I am the fourth generation to live on our farm here in Halsey, Oregon. And I know that pollinators are important to Oregon agriculture. Farmers depend on bees to pollinate many of their crops, but we also rely on pesticide tools to control destructive pests.

Bee health is a complex issue. Research on Colony Collapse Disorder has highlighted the complexity of pollinator health. Many factors that play a role, and pesticides are often noted as one factor. However, they are not considered the primary one. Varroa mite, disease, malnutrition, habitat and other stressors all play a role.

Oregon agriculture exports 80% of our commodities. SB 928 bill would create state-specific labeling for agricultural and horticultural commodities, putting Oregon's family farmers at a competitive disadvantage in the market. We've seen this idea come up before and rejected it knowing that it would put Oregon products at a disadvantage.

Plus SB 928 does not provide meaningful information to consumers. Just because a crop is grown using a neonicotinoid insecticide does not mean there is any increased risk to humans or the environment when those products are sold. This label would provide no meaningful information to consumers and only serves to spread fear about Oregon agriculture.

More so, SB 929 vilifies EPA-approved crop protection products. These have undergone a substantial review process, and registered pesticide products must meet the high standard of having "no unreasonable adverse effect on health or the environment." This includes honey bees.

SB 929 does not provide a clear mechanism to allow Oregon farmers to purchase neonic products.

SB 929 presents challenges for Oregon producers. Our unique environment and crop diversity creates a greater need for pest management.

Most of all SB 928 and SB 929 were introduced WITHOUT INPUT from Oregon's family farmers. Farmers have a lot at stake in this conversation and should be part of the discussion!

Please vote "NO" on SB 928 and SB 929.

Sincerely,

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