My apologies - I reversed the numbers in my initial email. Please see my correction below:

Dear Senate Committee for Environment and Natural Resources,

I'm sure you heard a lot of testimony on Monday from those looking to support SB 929. I was unable to make it because of my work schedule, but wanted to describe why I support restriction of Neonics.

In my spare time I run a pollinator conservation project called Pollinator Parkways, where I work with residents to turn their parking strips or sections of their front yard into habitat for pollinators. While many people are concerned about bees and other pollinators, they are unsure how to do so. People buy toxic plants while trying to help, and many people write to me concerned about growing plants that attract bees when their neighbors use poisonous sprays.

It's often quoted that bees are responsible for 1 in 3 bites of food. But this, in my opinion, is a drastic under-statement. If even 80% (a modest estimate) of flowering plants rely on pollinators to reproduce, we're talking about a collapse of many key ecosystems as thousands of species of plants, from flowers to trees, are rendered sterile. It would, in itself, be a mass extinction event. Beyond the fruits human enjoys are the fruits that other species need to survive. The consequences are terrifying.

Even thoughtful consumers have to navigate a complex hodge-podge of issues in order to make ethical choices in their gardens. A ban is necessary to help solve this issue, as educating all consumers on the topic would be costly, slow, and with limited impact.

I hope you will all vote to further protect these small and incredible creatures. They need you.
Warmest wishes,
Sherrie Pelsma

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Sherrie Pelsma
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