

**March 31, 2017**

**In Support of: SB 929 - Oregon Pollinator Protection Act**

**Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee,**

Our Statewide Coalition of Businesses works to protect Oregonians and the natural systems we depend upon from the toxic impacts of pesticides. The coalition includes more than 20 businesses representing farmers, food and beverage distributors, seed growers, public health providers, retailers, and merchants. Our Coalition requests a favorable vote on SB 929, the Oregon Pollinator Protection Act to protect our businesses, customers and communities.

Bees are a keystone species of life on land. Sustainable businesses depend heavily on healthy, biodiverse pollinator populations to thrive economically. Without native pollinators, many of our businesses would cease to exist. We are alarmed by the continued and unsustainable loss of bees and other essential pollinator populations and urge that significant action be taken now to address the threats they face from pesticides and other stressors threatening their survival. We are gravely concerned that neonicotinoids continue to be allowed into our environment. At current rates, this practice will have devastating impacts on our food supply, ecosystems and economic well-being.

Like us, bees need healthy food and a disease and poison-free environment within which to nurture their young. If our businesses are to continue work to save the bees, it will require many thoughtful actions aimed at protecting their habitat. Strategies to assure pollinator survival must include helping native bees, as well as honeybees. Our primary focus should be to protect and create native bee habitats that satisfy their critical needs. With 5,000 species of native bees in North America, of which approximately 500 of these species are native to Oregon, we have our work cut out for us. We need your help to reduce the impact of bee-killing neonicotinoids in our state so that bee habitat restoration and protections can continue.

SB 929 is a critical step to immediately reduce neonic contamination in Oregon's environment. Our landscapes and waterways are at the brink of ecological collapse. We must act now to ensure that our wild bees and beneficial insects remain healthy and alive in Oregon. **Our Statewide Coalition of Businesses, and the many thousands of Oregonians our businesses serve, support SB 929 for the sake of health and longevity for all of our natural ecosystems.**

Signed,

Mountain Rose Herbs  
Café Mam  
GloryBee Foods  
Hummingbird Wholesale  
Coconut Bliss  
Lush  
Bee Thinking

Oshala Farm  
Oregon's Constant Gardener  
Down To Earth  
NatureLee Inspired  
Capella Market  
Breeze Botanicals, LLC  
Klamath-Siskiyou Native Seeds  
Oregon Bee Store  
Katalyst, Inc.  
Garden Fever  
Urban Bees and Gardens  
Out of the Flame  
Zitavex Labs, LLC  
Wandering Roots Farm  
Oregon Premier Locations  
Silver Springs Nursery, Inc  
Self & Soul Center