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April 11, 2017

Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

My name is Anna Scharf and I am a farmer and family business owner in Polk County, Oregon. My family owns and operates about 2,500 acres west of Salem and grows 10 different crops. I am also a Board Member of the US Canola Association, and only one of two board members that represent the entire Pacific Northwest on that national board.

Honeybees, are an important part of my farm operation. I work closely with my bee keepers when applying neonicotinoid products, and follow EPA guidelines in order to protect the pollinators that I rely on.

I wanted to make sure that the committee was aware of the **Honeybee Health Coalition** that was formed in June of 2014. This organization is made up of honey producers, bee keepers, farmers, chemical companies and commodity organizations along with many others from both Canada and the US. They are working together to improve honeybee health. They are working towards collaborative solution on ALL things that affect honeybee health, as there is no one root cause for colony loss. They are working on:

- Pests and Disease - Honey bees are under attack. Varroa mites, nosema, and viruses are killing honey bee colonies
- Lack of Forage & Nutrition - declining wild spaces and increased monocultures – have led to malnutrition
- Incidental Pesticide Exposure - Use of pesticide and other crop protection products can incidentally expose bees
- Hive Management - Management and selective breeding practices may reduce genetic diversity.

Some of the members of the coalition are:

-Agricultural Retailers Association	-Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
-Almond Board of California	-Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees
-American Beekeeping Federation	-Land O'Lakes, Inc.
-American Honey Producers Association	-Levin Family Foundation
-American Seed Trade Association	-Monsanto Company
-Bayer CropScience	-National Assoc. of State Dept. of Agriculture
-Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund	-National Association of Wheat Growers
-Browning Honey Company	-National Corn Growers Association
-Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists	-National Honey Board
-Canadian Honey Council	<b>-Oregon State Beekeepers Association</b>
-Canola Council of Canada	-Pollinator Stewardship Council
-Conservation Technology Information Center	-Syngenta
-CropLife America	-United Soybean Board
-CropLife Canada	-U.S. Canola Association
- DuPont Pioneer	-Valent U.S.A Corporation
- Eastern Missouri Beekeepers Association	-Western Apicultural Society



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The Coalition also includes ex officio participation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Canada Bee Health Roundtable.

SB929 acts without taking the important steps that the Honeybee Health Coalitions is working towards. It addresses only one possible cause and does nothing to address the others. It goes against the crop protection research and labeling done by the EPA, and puts Oregon farmers and Oregon agriculture at a disadvantage to other producers in the US by taking a safe pest management tool out of the farmers tool box.

I would encourage you to visit the Honeybee Health Coalition web site at <http://honeybeehealthcoalition.org/> and even take the 2 minutes to watch the organizational video they have produced talking about their work. (link to you tube video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9kN3SQ8604>).

Let's give the experts and the collaborative efforts they are working on a chance. **This is not the time for SB929.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Anna Scharf  
Scharf Farms Inc.  
Perrydale, OR.