

**From:** Kristina Lefever  
**To:** [Sen DeBoer](#)  
**Cc:** [Floyd Prozanski](#); [Senator Dembrow](#); [Sen Roblan](#); [Rep Pam Marsh](#); [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Newest Research Article on Neonics  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:47:46 PM

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Dear Senator DeBoer:

Thanks again for meeting with me, Mike Curtis of the Oregon Bee Store, Joan Thorndike of Le Mera Gardens, and James Kraemer of Silver Springs Nursery a month or so ago to discuss the Oregon Pollinator Protection Act, SB 929.

The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources will be voting on SB 929 tomorrow, and I wanted to share an important article that I thought would be good for you to know about. I hope that you will be able to let them know you support the SB 929.

Spider mites have long been a problem for gardeners and we now know one more reason why this can be such a hard-to-get-rid of pest for many crops. The article, published in Newsweek in September 2016, explains a study that found that neonic pesticides actually **cause** pest outbreaks of spider mites by affecting the plants, making them more attractive to spider mites. Its a double whammy because the spider mites are not affected by the neonicotinoids, so the balance of beneficial to harmful insects is changed drastically. Surely we don't want pesticides that actually increase the populations of bad bugs that Integrated Pest Management programs are set up to fight.

[Widely Used Pesticide Causing Huge Spider Mite Outbreaks](#)

Please pass SB 929 to take neonicotinoids out of the hands of untrained general users. The overuse of neonics lead not only bee deaths, but to continued outbreaks of truly destructive and unwanted insect pests.

Sincerely,

*Kristina Lefever*  
*Pollinator Project Rogue Valley*  
*Ashland, OR*