

HB 2533A
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Hearing Room C
April 19, 2017

In Support Of HB 2533A --Comments and Considerations

The Oregon State Beekeepers Association (OSBA), representing Oregon's commercial and hobbyist beekeepers, supports and requests that you adopt HB 2533A. The adoption will make housekeeping changes to existing law ORS 602.

Beekeepers and many others supported the adoption of HB 3362 in 2015 that added to ORS 602, new requirements for the registration and payment of fees for *production* honeybee colonies. The Department of Justice has since concluded, that the current wording in ORS 602, for hive registration and fees, applies to both *production* and *nucleus* colonies. A *nucleus* colony is a small collection of bees and frames used to start or strengthen a *production* colony. It was never the intent nor understanding of any of the stakeholders in 2015 that *nucleus* colonies would be assessed a fee.

The OSBA, along with the Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Farm Bureau requested that Representative Reardon assist us in adding new language to ORS 602 to clearly exempt *nucleus* colonies. We thank him, his staff and legislative counsel for their assistance in drafting HB 2533A.

Besides adding a definition for and specifically exempting *nucleus* colonies, other changes clarify the language, requirements and limitations on the assessment of registration fees for honeybee colonies.

The OSBA appreciates and thanks you for the opportunity to appear before you and requests that you support HB 2533A.

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