



Testimony

Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

April 19, 2017

HB 2533-A: Support Hive Fee Fix

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2533-A. As a reference, the Oregon Farm Bureau Federation (OFB) is the state's largest general agriculture association, representing 7,000 farm and ranch families actively engaged in agriculture. Our membership includes representatives of over 220 different commodities and a diverse array of production methods.

OFB appreciates Representative Jeff Reardon introducing HB 2533-A, which will cut red tape for Oregon beekeepers. In 2015, HB 3362 added new requirements for the registration and payment of fees for honeybee colonies. Since then, the Department of Justice has determined that the language in statute applies registration and fee requirements to both production and nucleus colonies. This has driven up costs for commercial beekeepers in Oregon, many of whom are already experiencing increases in management costs.

A beekeeper may start with many more nucleus colonies than production colonies, and under current law, would be required to pay fees on all colonies. As amended, HB 2533 excludes nucleus colonies from the ODA registration fees for honeybee colonies. This fix recognizes the difference between nucleus colonies and production colonies, assessing only production colonies. OFB respectfully asks for your support of HB 2533-A.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2533-A. Please direct any questions to Jenny Dresler at the Oregon Farm Bureau (jenny@oregonfb.org; 503-810-4174).