WHEREAS: Oregon’s native bees are essential pollinators in ecosystems that support the reproduction of flowering trees and plants, including the fruits and seeds that are a major part of the diet of approximately 25% of all birds and mammals; and

WHEREAS: Oregon provides habitat for as many as 400-600 native bee species, and, for example, twenty-seven unique native bee species contribute to cranberry pollination in Southern Oregon; and

WHEREAS: Wild and native bees being critical for pollination services for Oregon’s cultivated agriculture, natural ecosystems and wildlife, it is critical that conservation efforts are developed to support and improve existing populations.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim August 15, 2015 to be OREGON NATIVE BEES CONSERVATION AWARENESS DAY in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, July 17, 2015.

Kate Brown, Governor

Jeanne P. Atkins, Secretary of State