



# Support Oregon Pollinator Protection Act



Pollinators support Oregon's economy to the tune of \$600 million annually.



Over 89% of Oregon's native plants depend on pollinators to produce seed for future generations.



1/3 of Oregon's food production rely on bees for pollination.

## Can you imagine a landscape where 89% of Oregon's native trees & plants are gone?

Pollinators—bees, butterflies, and other insects—play a critical role in nature and the food we eat every day. Nearly all – 89% – of Oregon's trees, shrubs and other native plants depend on pollinators to produce seed for the next generation. More than 1/3 of the food crops grown in Oregon, such as blueberries, raspberries, cherries, apples, and squash, rely on bees for pollination. Native pollinators are a **KEYSTONE SPECIES** and indicate the health of many ecosystems.

**1**

Pollinators are a **KEYSTONE SPECIES**. They play a crucial role in functioning ecosystems.

**2**

As **KEYSTONE SPECIES** decline, entire ecosystems can change dramatically or cease to exist.

**3**

Protecting **OREGON'S POLLINATORS** now will ensure plant and animal survival plus the diversity of Oregon food crops.

## What's Causes the Extinction of Bees?

- ▶ Neonicotinoids are now the most widely purchased insecticide in the world.
- ▶ Scientific studies prove neonicotinoid pesticides are a major contributor to the decline of bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.
- ▶ Small amounts of neonicotinoid exposure can kill bees on contact.
- ▶ 1 application of neonicotinoids can remain toxic to pollinators for 6+ years.
- ▶ Testing finds neonics in soils and rivers across the US, and in fruits and vegetables eaten by US consumers.
- ▶ Neonicotinoids migrate into water, poisoning beneficial insects in streams and further disrupting natural ecosystems.

## Consumers are Unsuspecting Users of Dangerous, Bio-Persistent Pesticides

Pesticide labels don't warn consumers about the uptake of neonicotinoids through tissue in trees and plants. Shoppers assume that products sold at garden and grocery stores are completely safe. People are less likely to read pesticide labels under the assumption of product safety. Oregon currently protects people from 500 dangerous pesticides and should add neonicotinoids to this list of RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDES. Take action now to protect people and pollinators!



*Many cities and states and US Fish & Wildlife have banned or restricted the use of neonics.*

## Oregon's History on Bees and Neonicotinoids

Massive bee kills in Oregon during 2013-2014 resulted from neonicotinoid pesticide applications to trees. Oregon Dept. of Agriculture adopted new laws to prohibit the application of neonicotinoid products on flowering trees. In 2015 Oregon passed legislation to require pollinator protection education for licensed pesticide applicators. This program has the potential to decrease the number of acute bee-kill incidents in professional settings. **However, the 2015 legislation does not address the long-term persistence of neonicotinoids or the harm they cause to native pollinators and water quality.**

## WHAT WILL SB 929 DO?

The Oregon Pollinator Protection Act will place necessary restrictions on neonicotinoid pesticides for consumers' purchase and use. Oregon already has rules to keep nearly 500 dangerous pesticides out of the hands of untrained consumers; it makes sense that neonicotinoids, highly toxic and bio-persistent, should be added to this list.

LC2973 does not change the availability of neonicotinoids to professional applicators, farmers or veterinarians who are trained and licensed.

Oregon will join more than 20 states, cities, federal agencies and universities that have already taken steps to restrict neonicotinoids, including Portland, Eugene and Milwaukie. Oregon can be a leader in the protection and preservation of these insects so vital to and entwined with our natural ecosystem and local agriculture.

