



Home of Aunt Patty's & GloryBee Products

120 N. Seneca Road office: (541) 689-0913
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Eugene, OR 97402 GloryBee.com

April 8, 2019

House Committee on Energy and Environment

Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2619

Prohibits sale, offering for sale, purchase or use of pesticide products containing neonicotinoid.

Dear Chair Helm and Representatives Reschke, Schouten, Findley, Salinas, Sollman, Wilde, Williams and Zika:

As President and owner of GloryBee, a family owned and operated food and ingredient distributor in Eugene, I am writing in support of HB 2619.

My family's business began as a honey and beekeeping company in 1975 and has grown over 44 years to a 200-employee supplier of sweeteners and other quality ingredients for natural food manufacturers, bakeries and supermarkets in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Honey bees are not only critical to our business, but to a healthy and abundant food supply. One in three bites of the food we currently eat requires pollination (by bees or other native pollinators). Without pollinators, these crops we take for granted (apples, blueberries, melons and almonds to name a few) will fail.

Honey bees are a multimillion dollar industry in Oregon, and through pollinating services, Oregon's honey bees and commercial beekeepers are also vital to California's 20 billion dollar almond industry.

Honey bee colony loss has been well documented in Oregon over the last decade. Last year Oregon beekeepers lost 35% of their hives.

Beekeepers and researchers have long suspected that pesticides are contributing to colony loss, and now the evidence is mounting against neonicotinoids ... whose persistent presence in soil and plants makes it possible for these chemicals to contaminate pollinators even when the initial application is made outside of the flowering season.



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When bees drop dead after spraying, it's easy to see cause and effect. Our concerns are also for the sublethal effects of pesticides. There are numerous scientific studies on the harmful effects of sublethal levels of neonicotinoids on the health of honey bees.

Neonic-based pesticides have been found to:

1. adversely affect honey bee immunity
2. reduce reproductive capacity of male honey bees
3. impair foraging bees' ability to locate nectar and pollen resources and return them to the hive

(Sponsler et. al.; *Pesticides and pollinators: A socioecological synthesis*, Science of the Total Environment 662: 1012-1027, Feb 2019)

In the face of this mounting scientific evidence, GloryBee believes it prudent to prohibit the sale and use of pesticide products containing neonicotinoids.

Please support HB 2169. Without honey bees and other native pollinators, we all lose.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Alan Taranski

Alan Taranski

President

GloryBee's **SAVE the BEE** Program is fostering public awareness of the plight of honey bees, educating beekeepers, and partnering with food and beverage manufacturers in raising funds to support scientific research on honey bee health. To date we have raised \$450,000 in support of Oregon State University's Honey Bee Research Lab.

