

Testimony provided by:

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We should not ... cannot continue down a path of permitting heavily funded chemical companies put our food security, specific survival and children health at risk any longer.

Spawned in tandem with WW2 bomb making, our nation, and Oregon, has been dominated, even bullied by the ag industry.

Discredit known risks. Bury evidence that refutes industry claims. Attack individuals and organizations that speak up against them in the press, marketplace and courts ... all to defend a method... code wording to defend and expand its market.

It's a deadly Catch 22: ag chemical companies profit off dead bees, weaken nature's ability to be healthy, but because one can't patent a parasitic wasp.

Law and the open market offer inadequate protection, the deadly noose loop of "needs more testing/too little funds for testing/we have to rely then on industry funded research"... perpetuates this suicidal status quo.

It's the exact opposite of the precautionary principle.

As writer for The Guardian Karl Mathiesen described it, the ag chemical industry, is "one vast train trapped on a chemical track."

Is it fair to strap our children and the insects we need for food security to this fate?

We say no.

Neonics adversely impact bees' reproduction, ability to navigate, temperature regulation, impaired learning and foraging behavior. I have seen this. The people I teach and collaborate with on bees see this.

Queens that 10 years ago lived 3-4 years now only live 1-2 years. I am called dozens of time a year by distraught beekeepers reporting the mysterious death of their hives. Full of honey... but not one bee in the hive. I read of far more situations identical to this.

I often teach about pollinators with kids. How to know a bee from a yellow jacket. That what the TV has taught them.. to fear bees... is a lie intended to entertain them through fear, not ground them in the real world.

Most kids are naturally fascinated by the beauty of honeycomb, bees' complex communication behaviors. Kids know our survival and health is linked to pollinators. Sometimes, I have to check

myself from tearing up, looking at their trusting, hopeful faces, knowing what I do about how rapidly their rights to a secure, healthy future, like bees, are daily being sacrificed to greed and marketing lies and fantasies.

Today though, we intend to make one small yet significant chip into this chemical titanic: to end the retail sale in cities of neonic-based insecticides. Poisons today that can legally be applied in far greater concentrations in home gardens than on farms –reportedly at concentrations up to 120 times as great. We have no idea how many hundreds, or thousands of gallons of neonics are applied in neighborhoods. You guessed it; there has been no requirement to do so. No funds to study it.

Preventing public access to these poisons is vital to halt the exposure risk to bees, pets and people, esp children.

Turn on the TV. Walk into a retailer that sells garden chemicals. Colorful glitzy marketing promises to dispatch those horrible bugs. For a yard you're proud of .. that gives great street appeal.

We must no longer trust nor bow to the bullying of Ag chemical companies. We must put the rights of living beings above chemical industry profits and practices.

I appeal to you, show us that representative government still is alive and functional in Oregon by passing this Bill.

Oregon's bees and children are at your mercy.

Next, we can launch an initiative to fine chemical Ag companies as was done with the cigarette and auto industries before them. Funds secured could support projects to replenish soil and return pollinators to health.

I welcome ongoing dialogue on this and related topics. Thank you for your public service.

Sources and etc

19 of 30 commonly used [lawn pesticides](#) and 28 of 40 commonly used [school pesticides](#) are linked to cancer. Even with the growing body of evidence linking environmental exposures to cancer in recent years, a report released May 6, 2010 by the President's Cancer Panel finds that the true burden of environmentally-induced cancer is greatly underestimated.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jun/26/do-farmers-really-need-bee-harming-insecticides-neonicotinoids>