

Watts Remy

From: Yvonne Shaw <ylshaw76@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:11 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: HB3058/SB853

Dear Senators,

Did you know that 80% of backyard beekeepers in the U.S. only stay in the game for 2 years? Most cite heartbreak and expense when their colonies die as the reason they quit. Pesticide poisoning is a major contributor to colony death.

I support HB 3058 to create stronger legislation to ban/restrict chlorpyrifos/neonics in Oregon.

I am an urban beekeeper. I don't think I'm impacted by farming applications of chemicals, but I can't be sure. I do know that I'm at the mercy of anyone who lives within 3 miles of my house because that's how far my bees go to forage.

I'm doing my part to support pollination processes in my neighborhood since there are few native bees in the area. This is no easy task, as bee foods and supplements are expensive, hive components cost money and mite treatments cost me time, money, and effort. My meager sales in honey and beeswax candles offset the cost a bit, but this is a labor of love.

My neighbors thank me on a regular basis because their gardens do so well. They are truly grateful.

I lost a colony last summer after one neighbor treated with pesticides. Three days after he sprayed around his house and yard, I had a pile of dead bees in front of my hive. All bees inside were dead. Classic poisoning. Thankfully, my other two hives survived.

I purchased that colony for about \$150.00, plus about \$100 in sugar and supplements, and another \$50 for mite treatments. It cost about \$300 to purchase the equipment for that particular hive set up. I can reuse the equipment, but I'm out \$300 cash, plus my time, and they died just as they were starting to create honey stores, so I lost about \$500 in revenue from honey sales. Pesticide contaminated wax is toxic. So no candles, either.

All because my neighbor didn't want to hassle with a few bugs on his patio.

When he found out that his pesticide application likely killed my hive, he was truly mortified and apologetic. My bees were pollinating his raspberries when they were exposed! He had no idea of the unintended consequences of his actions. I believe this is true of many urban dwellers. They don't understand that if just a couple of my bees are exposed to those chemicals, they will bring it back to the hive and the entire colony dies.

This is only one reason to restrict these chemicals. There are many more and you will hear from many people with different perspectives. Mine is only one piece of a larger picture. So for my part, I will say, give us backyard beekeepers a break and support stronger legislation to ban/restrict chlorpyrifos/neonics in Oregon.

Kind regards
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