



**OREGON CHAPTER
OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

March 26, 2019

FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

TO: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Support for SB 853

Chair Witt and committee members,

The Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society is writing to express our strong support for SB 853.

The Wildlife Society is an international organization founded in 1937, representing nearly 10,000 professionals, including scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, consultants, conservation officers, students and others who manage, conserve, and study wildlife populations and habitat. In Oregon, the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) represents nearly 500 such professionals from many areas of public and private enterprise.

Our mission is to promote wise conservation and management of wildlife resources in Oregon by serving and representing natural resource professionals. A central purpose of ORTWS is to support scientifically sound management policies.

Invertebrates are an essential component of a healthy functioning ecosystem. They pollinate our flowers and crops, they are a vital source of food for many other species, they control other 'pest' species, they eat decomposing and dead matter turning it into compost that helps nourish the soil, they aerate the soil and of course provide us with food (e.g. honey). The ecosystem services provided by invertebrates would equate to billions of dollars.

Unfortunately invertebrates are in decline globally, a recent global analysis found that 40% of pollinator species may be at risk of extinction (IPBES 2016). In Oregon we currently have four federally listed species, two of which are butterflies (Taylor's checkerspot and Oregon silverspot) that our members have been working to recover for over 25 years.

Pesticides are one cause of this decline and neonicotinoid represents an especially severe threat as its use is currently unregulated. They are systemic poisons that are absorbed into the plant and are present in the pollen and nectar, and they persist for long lengths of time in the soil.

In recognition of their potential harm to pollinators and other invertebrates the use of these chemicals in Europe has been strongly regulated since April 2018.

On behalf of ORTWS Members and Board, thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or to engage further discussion.

Respectfully,

ORTWS Board of Directors

ORTWS Contacts for SB 853:

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