

From: "Blumenauer, Earl" <Congressman.EarlBlumenauer@mail.house.gov> To: Hillary.Barbour@mail.house.gov Subject: TEST Why Saving America's Pollinators is a Must Date: Wed, 28 Jun 2023 13:07:40 -0400 Dear Friend, Each June we mark National Pollinator Month, a time to celebrate the services of bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and other pollinators. It is also a time to rededicate ourselves to protecting and saving them to ensure the future of our food supply. This is not a trivial issue. The contribution of bees and other insects to global food production is valued at \$125 billion a year. In the United States, honeybees pollinate nearly 80 percent of all flowering plants, including more than 100 types of fruits, vegetable, and nut crops. Despite their importance, an estimated one-third of honeybee colonies were lost between 2016 and 2018, due to habitat destruction and harmful pesticides called neonicotinoids. While widely used in agriculture and landscaping practices, neonicotinoids are highly toxic to bees, insects, and other pollinators that feed on plant pollen and nectar. The impact of neonicotinoid pesticides is not limited to farms and fields. When residues wash into waterways, they put aquatic species and their habitat at risk. There is a slogan "No food. No farms." We can take that further: "No pollinators. No food." Without pollinators, the world would be a very different place. We must use every tool at our disposal to provide pollinators with much-needed relief from toxic pesticides and monitor their populations to ensure their health and survival. Last week, I reintroduced my Saving America's Pollinators Act which suspends the use of neonicotinoids and other pesticides harmful to pollinators until experts determine that they are safe to use. It also increases coordination with the Center for Pollinator Conservation to give pollinators a voice within federal actions that affect their populations and habitats. It's worth noting that all across the U.S. local communities are acting to restrict neonicotinoid use. The European Union has permanently banned the outdoor usage of several neonicotinoids. These bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other creatures are essential elements of our food system. They are integral to Earth's biodiversity. Losing them means we risk losing the very food we put on our table. I am not willing to let that happen. Anyone can learn more about the status of pollinators and efforts to protect them by visiting https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.usda.gov/pollinators__;!!Fr0YZsIsFWxTZsBm-qTAg68!l8-2OfF. For updates on my work, be sure to like and follow my official Facebook(https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.facebook.com/congressmanblumenauer__;!!Fr0YZs) and Instagram, @congressmanearlblumenauer. ###