

## RESOLUTION NO. 2017 - 16

### A RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES WHICH ARE TOXIC TO HONEY BEES AND OTHER IMPORTANT POLLINATORS

**WHEREAS**, the use of neonicotinoid insecticides is associated with lethal and sub-lethal effects on bees that can change foraging behavior, reduce predator avoidance, delay development or reduce reproduction, and weaken immune defenses leading to increased susceptibility to natural stressors and diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of pollinators is a topic of much concern, with U.S. commercial beekeepers reporting unsustainable annual colony loss rates each year since 2006 and researchers documenting long-term declines for some other bee species, including six species of Oregon bumble bees; and

**WHEREAS**, threats to pollinators concern the entire food system, where pollination services are estimated to account for one in every three bites of food consumed and valued yearly at \$600 million in Oregon and \$27 billion in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Oregon's farms rely on both honey bees as well as 500-800 species of native bees for continued prosperity, with native bees being especially important for pollination of blueberries, grapes, cherries, apples, and cranberries; and

**WHEREAS**, native bees provide most of the pollination in natural plant communities, which contributes to valuable ecosystem services, including water filtration and erosion control; and

**WHEREAS**, neonicotinoids, the most widely used classes of systemic insecticides, spread through all parts of plants, including leaves, pollen and nectar, and are among the most toxic insecticides to bees available on the market, and have been implicated in several high-profile bee kills in Oregon; and

**WHEREAS**, neonicotinoids are highly persistent and can remain for years in soil and plant tissue, as well as in water bodies as they are highly soluble and a threat to aquatic invertebrates; and

**WHEREAS**, federal regulatory approval for most neonicotinoid products was made through Conditional Registration, a process that put pesticides on the market without full toxicity testing; and

**WHEREAS**, commercial and residential use of neonicotinoid and other systemic insecticides on home gardens, public parks, schools, and other local and municipal areas could pose risks to bees, other pollinators, and aquatic invertebrates; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of hazardous pesticides is not necessary to create and maintain green landscapes, and procuring or using products containing neonicotinoid insecticides is considered bad practice in environmental stewardship.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF WEST LINN RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The City of West Linn will continue the existing practice to not use neonicotinoid or other bee-toxic systemic insecticides for any purpose on lands owned or operated by the City, including public rights-of-way, unless otherwise declared by emergency order per the West Linn Integrated Pest Management Plan.

**SECTION 2.** The City of West Linn will continue the existing practice to not purchase neonicotinoid products.

**SECTION 3.** The City of West Linn recognizes the importance of pollinators and their services, and will continue to support efforts to educate the broader community about this action, and encourage its citizens and businesses to adopt bee-friendly landscaping practices.

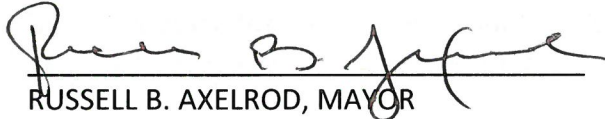
**SECTION 4.** The City of West Linn will continue to prioritize landscape practices that encourage pollinator populations and support pollinator services.

**SECTION 5.** The City of West Linn will continue to pursue creating more native pollinator habitat such as installing more pollinator host and forage plants in appropriate locations.

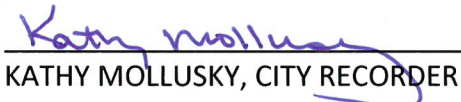
**SECTION 6.** The City of West Linn will encourage private developers to incorporate pollinator-friendly plantings into landscaping.

**SECTION 7.** The City of West Linn will continue to comply with Oregon Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules and ensure city applicators are properly licensed and trained in best management practices for pest prevention.


This resolution was PASSED and ADOPTED this 19th day of June 2017, and takes effect upon passage.

  
RUSSELL B. AXELROD, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
KATHY MOLLUSKY, CITY RECORDER

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
CITY ATTORNEY