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OAKLAND

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Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE ABEL GUILLÉN

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 602 (ALLEN & WIENER)
THAT WOULD REQUIRE LABELING OF COMMERCIALY
AVAILABLE SEEDS AND PLANTS TREATED WITH NEONICOTINOID
PESTICIDE**

WHEREAS, Our food supply depends on pollinators, bees pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that make up 90 percent of the world's food supply, and honey and wild bees in the United States are valued at over \$22 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, California beekeepers lost a staggering 40% of their hives in 2016, beekeepers have lost an average of 30 percent of their hives since 2006, and wild bee populations have declined by 23 percent between 2003 – 2008 in the Central Valley and other key agricultural regions of the country; and

WHEREAS, Neonicotinoids are a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine; and

WHEREAS, In addition to killing bees outright, research shows that even low levels of neonicotinoid pesticides cause serious harm by impairing bees' ability to learn, find their way back to the hive, collect food, produce new queens, or to mount an effective immune response; and

WHEREAS, Recent research suggests that widespread agricultural use of neonicotinoids and other pesticides may be contributing to honey bee colony collapse disorder, as well as impacting other species of bees that contribute to pollination; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the Task Force on Systemic Pesticides, a group of global, independent scientists studying the impact of pesticides, reviewed more than 1100 peer-reviewed studies, concluded that neonicotinoids are a key factor in bee declines and also harm other essential organisms, and called for immediate regulatory action to restrict the use of neonicotinoids; and

WHEREAS, Neonicotinoids are one of the most widely used class of insecticides, that use continues to grow, consumers often overuse them, consumers also may be unaware that many “bee friendly” garden plants and vegetable seedlings sold at home garden centers have been pre-treated with these bee-killing pesticides, neonicotinoids are frequently found in waterways, and honey bees can travel more than three miles in search of food, encountering neonicotinoids in both backyards and agricultural operations; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2014 Friends of the Earth study, more than half of “bee-friendly” plants purchased at Home Depot, Walmart, and Lowes stores in 18 cities across the US and Canada had levels of neonicotinoids at sufficient levels to kill bees outright; and

WHEREAS, Since the European Union instituted a ban on neonicotinoids in 2013, bee populations in Europe have rebounded; and

WHEREAS, More environmentally capatible alternatives and practices exist that can replace neonicotoids for common uses; and

WHEREAS, Two major retailers, True Value and Walmart, recently announced that they would phase out sales of seeds and plants pre-treated with neonicotinoids and similar actions were previously undertaken by Home Depot and local Cole Hardware; and

WHEREAS, The City of Oakland values pollinators and sustainability, has had its own Pollintator Posse, and is home to apiaries, pollinator gardens, and residents and organizations who care and work on the health of our environment and food supply, and bees have been the focus of various Oakland garden workships, walking tours, and an Oakland Museum *Bees* exhibit at the Oakland International Airport; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 602 (Allen & Wiener) would require labeling of seeds and plants sold at retail establishments that have been treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide with the words, “STATE OF CALIFORNIA SAFETY WARNING: MAY HARM BEES;” and

WHEREAS, SB 602 is substantially similar to 2016’s SB 1282 (Leno), for which the Oakland City Council approved a Resolution in Support on April 19, 2016; and

WHEREAS, SB 602 is endorsed by Bee Smart California, California League of Conservation Voters, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Defenders of Wildlife, Ecological Farming Association, Friends of the Earth, Good Earth Natural Foods, Pesticide Action Network, Pollinator Stewardship Council, Sierra Club California, Slow Food California, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, and many other groups, as well individual farmers and bee keepers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses SB 602 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California