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Coalition for the Deschutes  
PO Box 1589  
Bend, OR 97709

23 April 2020,

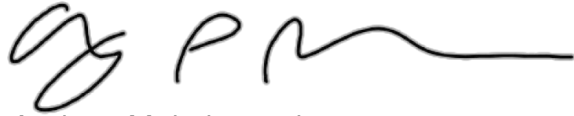
On behalf of the Oregon Bee Project, I would like to express our support for the proposal *Central Oregon Pollinator Plot Project*. The proposal comes along at an opportune moment, namely just as Oregon State University has developed expertise around creating pollinator habitat on carrot seed field headlands, as federal conservation organizations have begun supporting pollinator habitat projects in Oregon and as public concern over native bees has begun to grow. The proposed project would be the first commercial demonstration of integrating habitat into central Oregon vegetable seed production, potentially serving as a catalyst to wider adoption of these practices. Moreover, phase 2 of the project would provide a demonstration of placing habitat along irrigation corridors, connecting native bee populations across the biodiverse area of Oregon.

Oregonians care greatly about their bees. The Oregon Bee Project is a joint effort of Oregon State University Extension, Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Forestry. Together we provide state-level leadership on pollinator health. Our efforts include extensive training initiatives for land-managers and a native bee survey (the Oregon Bee Atlas). Our training has been highly effective and enabled us to promote specialty crop production in the region. Our bee survey has helped to demonstrate to consumers that high levels of bee biodiversity are associated with the kind of diverse crop production associated with specialty crops. But we rely heavily on successful demonstration projects in order to promote bee-friendly farming practices to growers.

Throughout the course of the proposed project The Oregon Bee Project will feature the restoration in its training and outreach programs, including on its social media and weekly podcast channel (the podcast, based from Oregon State University, reaches 1,200 listeners each week). The Oregon Bee Project will also provide technical advice on how to track native bees through the project.

We strongly recommend this project to the Whole Foods Community Giving Foundation. It is truly the right project, in the right place, with the right people, at the right time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AM', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Andony Melathopoulos  
Assistant Professor, Pollinator Health Extension, Oregon State University  
Chair, Oregon Bee Project



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April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Whole Foods Community Giving Program  
Whole Foods Market  
2610 NE Hwy 20,  
Bend, OR 97701

Re: Letter of Support

Letter of Support to: Coalition for the Deschutes Plotting for Pollinators Program

North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) supports the Coalition for the Deschutes Plotting for Pollinators (P4P) program as funded through the Whole Foods Community Giving Program. Not only is NUID committed to its partnership with the Coalition for the Deschutes in working to meet our mutual goals of sustainable natural resource management, but the P4P positively bridges the gap between the urban region of Bend with the local agricultural communities of the greater Central Oregon area. The projects planned for the 2020 P4P program are the first phase of many focused on restoring pollinator corridors through urban and agricultural regions of the Deschutes Basin.

North Unit Irrigation District manages nearly 59,000 acres of productive agricultural land within Central Oregon. Most famous for producing over 55% of the nation's hybrid carrot seed, the farmers within this region are dedicated to optimizing their water efficiency and pollinator health. Hybrid carrots rely on healthy pollinators to produce seed; however, carrot flowers themselves provide little nutrients to the pollinators.

P4P plots supplement the nutrients necessary for sustainable commercial pollination as well as help build the stability of natural pollinator communities within this region. The P4P program will also invite all Central Oregon residents, urban and rural, to invest and take part in constructing these pollinator plots. This program will educate, engage, and connect communities that usually would not interact but share the same value: to restore the health of our pollinators within Central Oregon.

Sincerely,

Lisa Windom  
Special Projects Manager