



January 29, 2024

Senator Mike Padden  
WA State Legislative, LMB 215  
Olympia, WA 98504

Subject: Senate Bill 5934 - Support for Pollinator Integration in Urban Landscapes

Dear Senator Padden,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 5934 which promotes the conservation and integration of pollinators in urban landscapes, particularly in the context of their significant agricultural benefits. As a concerned citizen, I believe that addressing the needs of pollinators is crucial for the well-being of both our environment and our agricultural sector.

Pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other insects, play a fundamental role in the pollination of crops, contributing to the production of fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Their vital role in sustaining agriculture cannot be overstated, as approximately 75% of the world's food crops depend on pollinators for successful reproduction. Therefore, taking steps to protect and enhance pollinator populations is essential for ensuring food security and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

One effective way to support pollinators is through the establishment of pollinator gardens and beltways within urban landscapes. These areas not only provide a haven for pollinators but also offer various benefits for our communities. By integrating pollinator-friendly spaces into urban planning, we can create environments that reduce the need for excessive water usage, minimize chemical applications on lawns, and enhance overall biodiversity.

Pollinator gardens and beltways serve as green oases within urban areas, contributing to the beauty and ecological balance of our communities. Beyond their aesthetic value, these areas can also act as educational tools, raising awareness about the importance of



pollinators and their role in sustaining ecosystems. Furthermore, the presence of pollinator-friendly spaces in urban landscapes can positively impact the mental well-being of residents, providing them with serene and natural environments for recreation and relaxation.

In light of the current challenges facing our environment and agriculture, I urge you to champion policies and initiatives that support the creation and maintenance of pollinator-friendly spaces in urban areas. By doing so, we can contribute to the preservation of biodiversity, the reduction of resource-intensive practices, and the overall enhancement of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I trust that you will consider the long-term benefits that pollinator conservation and integration into urban landscapes can bring to our state and nation. I look forward to witnessing positive steps towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vicki C. Carter".

Vicki Carter, Director

Spokane Conservation District

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