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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Central Co-op and Seattle Sierra Club Achieve Seattle Municipal Ban on Neonicotinoids!

Seattle, WA: On Monday September 22, the Seattle City Council, with Mayor Ed Murray concurring, voted unanimously to enact a municipal ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides by the City of Seattle, and on land managed by the City of Seattle. Seattle becomes the largest city to take such a stand.

Central Co-op and Sierra Club Seattle Group brought the resolution to City Council, and led the campaign for passage. Over 4300 people signed their petition, and 24 organizations signed on to the resolution.

In addition to enacting a municipal ban, the resolution also calls for a national moratorium on neonicotinoids; calls on the White House Task Force on Pollinator Health to take action; on the EPA to suspend registration of this class of pesticides; on the US Congress to pass the Save America's Pollinators Act; and on retailers in Seattle to not sell neonicotinoids.

"It's a small but meaningful step in the growing worldwide movement for pollinators, which are extremely important for agricultural production and for ecosystem health" says Webster Walker, Central Co-op's community outreach administrator who testified in support of the measure. "We look forward to further steps from the city to make Seattle the bee friendliest city in the USA."

Petition site with 4300 signatures and links to 24 supporting organizations: <http://www.change.org/petitions/city-of-seattle-we-call-on-the-city-of-seattle-to-ban-neonicotinoid-pesticide-usage>

City of Seattle Resolution 31548

<http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?s1=neonicotinoids&s3=&s2=&s4=&Sect4=AND&l=20&Sect2=THESON&Sect3=PLURON&Sect5=RESNY&Sect6=HITOFF&d=RESF&p=1&u=%2F~public%2Fresny.htm&r=1&f=G>

About Central Co-op: Central Co-op is a community-owned natural foods cooperative located at the top of Seattle's Capitol Hill. A complete grocery store dedicated to sustainable practices and the Washington food economy, Central Co-op features an organic produce department, sustainably raised and harvested meat and seafood, an in-house deli and juice bar, a large selection of bulk goods and herbs, and extensive healthy and wellness section and unique gifts. Open to everyone, seven days a week. More information is available online at www.centralcoop.coop

About Seattle Sierra Club: The Sierra Club tagline is: "Enjoy, explore, and protect the planet." Thousands of people in Washington State every year participate in events and campaigns related to that mission. The Seattle group serves Seattle and Shoreline, and focuses on local issues, including improving public transit, reducing waste, environmental justice, and endorsing and supporting green candidates. <http://cascade.sierraclub.org/>

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