



495 NE Bellevue Drive, Bend, OR 97701



July 19, 2021

Dear Mayor Russell, City Council, and Environment and Climate Committee,

As President of the Worthy Garden Club and founder & owner of Worthy Brewing, I'd like to formally endorse our local efforts to adopt the Bee City USA resolution and apply to become a Bee City USA® community. We humbly recognize the diversity of terrain and native species we live amongst, as well as our place in protecting these local assets.

In our work with several local conservation and research organizations, we have learned about the keystone role native plants and pollinators play in a healthy ecosystem and economy. With no pollinators there is far less affordable food, far less beauty, and far less biodiversity in our landscapes.

The explosive residential growth and tourist visitation Central Oregon has experienced in recent years has taken a toll on our local landscape. Habitat destruction and pesticide use remain one of the largest threats to our vulnerable pollinators. We owe it not only to Bend residents but also to our visitors to maintain the integrity of our ecoregion by reducing reliance on chemical sprays and creating more native, pollinator-friendly corridors throughout town. Native landscapes not only support native insect and mammal populations, but can also help conserve water, an issue that gains increasing importance as our reservoirs continue to empty and our forests burn year after year.

As the first city east of the Cascades to become a Bee City USA®, Bend would be making a strong statement about their commitment to environmental stewardship in the face of a changing community and changing climate. Worthy is heartily on board.

Sincerely,

Roger Worthington  
President, Worthy Garden Club  
Owner & Founder, Worthy Brewing