

Mark Emrich: My name is Mark Emrich. I am past President of the Olympia Beekeepers Association and the Washington State Beekeepers Association. I've actually met with a good part of the panel here on beekeeping issues through the years. I'm a resident of Rochester, in Thurston County. 4 years ago I met with you folks in South Bend and basically talked about this issue then. We didn't have as much science as we have in the study of Imidacloprid as we do now -- relative to bees. But it's still a central nervous system. It's still small insects. And I take a look at what we've changed in the way the bay actually works. [unintelligible] salmon and all the rest of these -- what I believe would be natural predators for some of the shrimp population is being removed, whether it's mismanagement or things that have been used in the past. But now we're thinking that we're intelligent enough that now we've screwed it up this bad that, geez, maybe we should just throw some chemicals in there and we can right the ship. And I'm concerned with the really small creatures in this particular act as far as zooplankton. And a lot of the microbiomes that are the feed for these oysters and mussels and a lot of other species that are out there that rely on them as well. And I know that you've done test plots in the past. I know that we've had loss of crab. We've lost some other things. But I don't know about the actual creatures that live in the silt population and certainly as Laurie Pyne pointed out earlier it's a systemic pesticide.

So if you do have wheat beds, any kind of low vegetation that is also around the beds that are being treated, that's going to be absorbed and that's going to have a long-lasting effect on the area -- because it's going to continue to leach this stuff out. It becomes part of the plant. Until the plant dies, it's going to be there. So I just have a lot more questions than I have answers to and will actually forward 6 or 7 studies I was going to quote tonight but it's hard to follow some of these people and their passions so I won't dog you with this. But I will make sure that Derrick gets copies of this and he take a look at some of the studies that I've reviewed recently that have direct meaning with Imidacloprid in water colonies. So hopefully it will help you craft a decision. Thank you.