

take time away from the office. Some board members are retired.

Shabram says she wants to serve on the 4J board as a way to offer a more diverse perspective.

In fact, when she attended her first school board meeting, the lack of childcare struck her.

“How are parents, community members, educators — whomever — supposed to access that space if they have children?” she says.

Shabram’s dedication to empowering youth is obvious when she walks into the *Eugene Weekly* with her campaign manager, Connor Gabor — an 18-year-old South Eugene High School student who’s also the founder and chair of the Young Democrats of Lane County.

Gabor says students approached Shabram to run for the school board seat because she’s spent the past few years teaching students about consent and sexual assault prevention.

“We’re in the age of #MeToo, and we should not be allowing children to be sexually assaulted in schools,” he says. “That’s a huge ethical failure of all leaders in 4J.”

Shabram says that what she’s learned from leading the REV program is to sit back and listen to what youth have to say.

“The whole model of REV comes from understanding young people are the experts of their own experience,” she says. “When adults pretend what they know is best for kids, all we do is push kids away from us.”

In her current position, Shabram says, she does develop lesson plans and curricula, but listening is probably the biggest part of her education model.

“When we adults can be humble enough and shut up and listen to them, we really gain a lot,” she adds.

Other unions, such as United Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 280, have come out in support of Shabram. So it’s no surprise she speaks out in favor of using a community benefits agreement (CBA) for future capital projects.

A CBA is a contract signed, in this case, by a government agency and a contractor to ensure a project not only pays prevailing wage but can also offer health insurance and has an inclusive workforce.

For Shabram, it’s a way to support working families in the Eugene area.

“The people who are building those schools have kids who are going to those schools. The kids who are going to those schools would benefit greatly from dental

insurance,” she says.

“If we’re employing their parents to build the school they’re going to go to, we have to then provide the parents with the resources they need,” Shabram adds.

And there’s the issue of the tale of two Euge­nes — south and north.

When the school board was worried about the bond amount last year, which could have affected the capacity of North Eugene High School, the board meeting started with the announcement that South Eugene High School had been named the best high school in Oregon.

And a 2017 media bias study based on coverage by *The Register-Guard* shows that local education stories are often complimentary about South Eugene schools but negative when it comes to other schools.

Shabram says an important — but easy — step is to change the rhetoric of the two areas and to celebrate achievements of all schools.

“I think there’s a lot to be said for celebrating the real amazing things that are going on in all those schools and lifting those up and really making sure we speak as a whole community about every one of our schools,” she says. “And that is about perception, but perception matters a lot.” ■

news



To Bee or Not to Bee

LAWUIT SEEKS PROTECTION FOR A BEE THAT MAY BE EXTINCT — AND 23 OTHER SPECIES

By Camilla Mortensen

Franklin’s bumblebee may already be extinct. Its presence hasn’t been recorded in 13 years.

But despite the species’ ongoing decline, the rare Oregon bee has never been given protection under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Noah Greenwald, endangered species director with the Center for Biological Diversity, says that over the years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) hasn’t met its deadlines when it comes to listing species in need of protection. So the center filed a lawsuit April 17 against the Trump administration and its newly appointed — and controversial — Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt.

The lawsuit seeks endangered species protection for the bee as well as 23 other animals and plants the group says are in danger of extinction. The list includes another species found in Oregon, and sometimes in the

Willamette Valley, the tricolored blackbird.

Greenwald says Franklin’s bumblebee hasn’t been seen since 2006. According to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Oregon Conservation Strategy, the bee needs the nectar and pollen of flowering plants, including lupine, California poppy, horsemint and pennyroyal. The bee is primarily found in a very narrow range of southern Oregon and northern California.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature put the bee on the “Red List of Threatened Species” and classified it as “critically endangered” and in “imminent danger of extinction” in 2010. In 2011 Franklin’s bumblebee moved to the ESA’s 12-month review list, Greenwald says.

A 2016 USFWS work plan called for decisions on the bee and the 23 species in the lawsuit to be made by the end of 2018. “But Bernhardt and the Trump administration are preventing the agency from doing its job of protecting at-risk species,” the Center for Biological Diversity says in a press release.

Greenwald says that despite the fact it might already be too late for Franklin’s bumblebee, “that is no reason to wait.” Other Oregon species, such as the Humboldt marten, have been thought to be extinct and then resurfaced. Greenwald says that since the ESA was enacted in 1979, 47 species have gone extinct waiting to be listed.

“Franklin’s bumblebee is sadly a candidate to join that list,” he says. Federal ESA protections include recovery plans, the ability to purchase habitat and protection from harm from federal activities.

The reason for delays, Greenwald says, include a lack of funding from Congress for the listing program, USFWS not having an efficient program for listing species, and the fact that some species generate a lot of opposition. But, he says, Republican administrations are generally slower to list species, and under Trump only 16 species have gained ESA protections.

Greenwald says that back when Bernhardt was the Interior lawyer in the George W. Bush administration, only 62 species were put on the endangered list in eight years. Under Democrat Bill Clinton an average of 65 species a year were listed.

Brian Hires of the Office of Public Affairs for USFWS says the agency is unable to comment on pending litigation. He does say that there is a “12-month finding pending for the Franklin’s bumblebee.” He adds that these 12-month findings are generally accompanied with “not warranted” findings to list under the ESA, or proposals to list.

“These actions are based on and include full details of the best available science and information” and are “used to determine a species’ current and projected future status,” Hires says.

Greenwald says that because of climate change and the growing human footprint, more and more species need protection. “We need to do more and more for conservation — the extinction crisis is accelerating.” ■

Support local bees: From 11 am to 11 pm Saturday, April 27, Viking Braggot is donating \$1 per pint sold at its Southtowne Pub to Beyond Toxics’ Pollinator Protection Program for the Fourth Annual Pints for Pollinators benefit. Friday, April 26 to Saturday, April 27, is GloryBee’s 45th Annual Bee Weekend. Go to GloryBee.com for more on live demos, honey sampling and more.