



BEYOND PESTICIDES

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**CENTER FOR
FOOD SAFETY**

Resolution On The Use Of Neonicotinoid Pesticides Toxic To Honey Bees And Other Pollinators

WHEREAS, bee-toxic systemic insecticides, such as neonicotinoids: imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, acetamiprid, and thiacloprid, are neurotoxins that impact motor and locomotor activity, and are also associated with reproductive and mutagenic effects;

WHEREAS, the use of systemic insecticides such as neonicotinoid pesticides are associated with lethal and sub-lethal effects on bees that impair bee foraging patterns, navigating and learning behavior, alter reproductive cycles, impair bee immune systems leading to increased susceptibility to pathogens and reduced colony survival;

WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high, with annual losses of commercial honey bee colonies increasing by as much as 50 percent since 2006, along with the dramatic decline of other populations of wild bees and other pollinators;

RECOGNIZING, threats to pollinators concerns the entire food system, where pollination services provided by honey bees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food, responsible for the pollination of commodity crops such as almonds, apples, blueberries and many others, and contributing roughly \$25 billion worth of services to U.S. agriculture;

WHEREAS, the use of systemic insecticides such neonicotinoid pesticides has been shown to poison birds as well as aquatic organisms;

WHEREAS, the systemic nature of bee-toxic pesticides gives rise to chemical residues that persist in the environment, translocating through plants to remain in leaves, pollen and nectar, contaminating soil, impacting beneficial soil microorganisms, and contaminating water resources;

WHEREAS, evidence of systemic insecticide resistance among insect pests has been documented leading to resistant insect populations and an increased economic cost to control;

WHEREAS, regulatory approval was granted to neonicotinoid pesticides without adequate review of their impacts to pollinators;

WHEREAS, residential and commercial use of systemic insecticides such as neonicotinoids and other hazardous pesticides on home gardens, public parks, schools, and other local and municipal areas pose unacceptable risk to bees and other pollinators; and,



**BEE Protective
Habitat**

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WHEREAS, the use of hazardous pesticides is not necessary to create and maintain green lawns and landscapes, home or public gardens, or open spaces given the availability of viable alternatives practices and products;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

[The name of town, school board, company, organization] will not procure or use neonicotinoid products, or products containing other bee-toxic systemic insecticides.

[The name of town, school board, company, organization] will work towards reducing use of other bee-toxic pesticides including pyrethroids and insect growth regulators.

[The name of town, school board, company, organization] will ensure that commercial pest service providers provide landscape services that encourage pollinator populations and support pollinator services.

[The name of town, school board, company, organization] recognizes the importance of pollinators and their services, and will support efforts to educate the broader community about the action it has taken and encourage other entities and households to adopt a similar policy.

[The name of town, school board, company, organization] will endorse efforts to suspend the use of neonicotinoids and other bee-toxic systemic insecticides at other institutions and within the local community.