

Submitter: Doris Cellarius

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2679

Please vote "Yes" and pass HB 2679, a law which would restrict uses of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Indeed it would be better for our environment if you would ban all uses of neonicotinoids. They are killing off bees at an alarming rate. They have been found harm the brains of bees making it difficult to them to remember how to return to their hives. Other insects are harmed also.

According to the NRDC which uses the term "neonics" :

"Neonics are bad for the same reason they're used in the first place—to insects, they're some of the most deadly pesticides ever created. The problem is that they kill indiscriminately, exterminating not only "pest" insects but also countless butterflies, bees, and other wildlife.

Neonics are considered "systemic" pesticides. This means they can be applied directly to the soil (as a "drench") around a plant's roots, or as a coating on a plant seed, which the plant then literally soaks up as it grows. That makes the plant itself—including its nectar, pollen, leaves, stems, and fruit—toxic. What's worse is that only a small portion of the neonics make it into the target plant, about 2 to 5 percent for most seed coatings, leaving about 95 percent in the soil."

Once in the soil, neonics remain active for years, and rain or irrigation water can easily carry them long distances to contaminate new soil, plant life, and water supplies. Given neonics' widespread use, the result has been vast ecosystem contamination, which we notice most often in water. A 2015 study by the U.S. Geological Survey found neonic pollution in more than half of the streams it sampled nationwide."

I urge you to expand this bill to more strongly restrict applications of neonicotinoid coatings on plant seeds.

On behalf of protecting all of "nature" - please pass this law.

Doris Cellarius