



March 1, 2021

Representative Rick Hansen, Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Via e-mail only: Peter.Strohmeier@house.mn

Re: **Support of HF 1210 Ban on Neonics, Chlorpyrifos in Wildlife Management Areas**

Dear Chair Hansen and Committee Members:

DNR controlled lands should not be where highly toxic pesticides that are bad for bees and other beneficial insects, birds, or mammals including humans are used. Please support House File 1210, a bill to ban the use of Neonicotinoids and Chlorpyrifos in publicly owned Wildlife Management Areas.

Neonicotinoids

Data from the University of Minnesota Department of Entomology and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture show the same thing; very small amounts of neonicotinoids are acutely toxic to beneficial insects. For three of the most commonly used neonicotinoids, a tiny fraction of one microgram (a microgram is one millionth of a gram) can kill a bee.

Neonicotinoids are also responsible for declining bird populations. In 2019, *National Geographic* reported on the effect this pesticide, particularly on songbirds that migrate during planting season:

“The world's most widely used insecticide has been linked to the dramatic decline in songbirds in North America. A first ever study of birds in the wild found that a migrating songbird that ate the equivalent of one or two seeds treated with a neonicotinoid insecticide suffered immediate weight loss, forcing it to delay its journey.”

Neonicotinoids may also negatively impact large mammals. A study from South Dakota State University in 2019 found that neonicotinoids are “likely causing serious birth defects in white-tailed deer.” In Minnesota, we await data collected by the Dept. of Natural Resources regarding the presence of neonicotinoids in deer spleens.

Chlorpyrifos

The organophosphate insecticide chlorpyrifos should also be banned from public lands because it is linked to serious neurodevelopmental damage in children. The chemical is already banned in California. And *The Guardian* reported on February 6, 2021 that Corteva, the world's largest manufacturer of chlorpyrifos, will stop producing the chemical by the end of the year.

These toxic pesticides have no place on these public lands that we maintain for the protection and enhancement of our wildlife and other natural resources.

Please support House File 1210.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "M".

Steve Morse
Executive Director