



March 22, 2021

Representative Mike Sundin, Chair  
Representative Samantha Vang, Vice-Chair  
House Agriculture, Finance and Policy Committee  
Committee Members  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Minnesota Pest Management Association – Support for HF 408 Pollinator lethal insecticide fee increased, and fee revenue allocated to pollinator research**

Dear Chairman Sundin, Vice-Chair Vang, Representative Hansen, and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Pest Management Association (MPMA) the only trade group for structural pest management companies or “pest control” companies in Minnesota, appreciates the opportunity to provide our thoughts on HF 408. MPMA member companies manage pests, including rodents, ants, cockroaches, bed bugs, mosquitoes, spiders, stinging insects, termites, ticks, and other pests in countless commercial, residential, and institutional settings. MPMA members are committed to providing essential and quality pest management services that protect public health, food, and property.

**We want to make it clear that we applaud Representative Hansen’s efforts to protect pollinators and increase fees on neonicotinoid pesticides. While our industry’s uses of neonicotinoid pesticides are unlikely to impact pollinators, we support protecting them through this fee increase and allocating funds to further research.**

***Professional Structural Pest Control Pesticide Applications Are Unlikely to Impact Pollinators***

It is known that structural pest control uses of pesticides and neonicotinoid pesticides, which is one of the main classes of pesticides impacted by HF 408, are unlikely to pose a threat to pollinators, as a recent Cornell University study on neonicotinoid pesticides illustrates: **“Negligible risk to pollinators from household pest control and antiparasitic uses... Such applications are unlikely to lead to substantial exposure for insect pollinators.”**<sup>1</sup>

MPMA stresses the impact that the structural pest management industry has on pollinators is nominal. Pesticide risks to pollinators are not only focused on the toxicity of a chemical but also

---

<sup>1</sup> "Neonicotinoid insecticides in New York State: Economic Benefits and Risk to Pollinators," (P.44), <https://pollinator.cals.cornell.edu/pollinator-research-cornell/neonicotinoid-report/>

the potential for exposure. Structural pest control is very unlikely to lead to exposure. Similarly, exterior treatments applied to the structure and other areas around the structure are also unlikely to result in significant exposure. MPMA members support, teach, and implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by the National Pest Management Association, which greatly increases the ability of our members to safely use pesticides in a manner that doesn't impact pollinators.<sup>2</sup> In addition, MPMA for decades has consistently receives more industry training than MDA requires, at our request, so that our industry can protect health, property, and the environment.

In conclusion, we are supportive of HF 408. Thank you for your commitment to protecting pollinators.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Pest Management Association Board of Directors & SPAR Representatives

Caroline Kirby-Plunketts Pest Control  
Dr. Mohammed El Damir-Adams Pest Control  
Matthew Eickman-Abra Kadabra Environmental Service  
Rob Greer-Rove Pest Control  
Lance Watrin-Granite Pest Control  
Matt Ferguson-Rainbow Pest Experts  
Staci Johnston-EcoLab  
Todd Leyse-Adams Pest Control

---

<sup>2</sup> NPMA Pollinator Best Management Practices (BMPs),  
<http://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/npma/PollinatorBMPsFINAL.pdf>