



POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE
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Support for HF718: Empower cities to make choices on pesticide use in their own community

Date: March 11, 2021

To: Minnesota House of Representatives, Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee

Pollinator Friendly Alliance strongly supports HR718 to delegate control over pollinator-lethal pesticides to local communities. Currently, Minnesota state pesticide preemption law denies local residents and leaders their democratic right to decide if minimum pesticide use standards set by state and federal law (“the label is the law”) are appropriate for their own communities.

[Pollinator Friendly Alliance](http://WWW.POLLINATORFRIENDLY.ORG) is a Minnesota grassroots conservation organization. We understand the **importance of community pride and empowerment** for local people to invest in their own neighborhoods. During the pandemic, people are at home and in their communities now more than ever and realize the importance of being good stewards for the health of their own community. We also believe in community intelligence and the ability of local people to make good decisions on their own behalf.

Local people and leaders know their own community best and it’s time to empower cities to make their own decisions on the pesticides being used near their homes and businesses. Pesticides that can contaminate water, land and our food source. Local control on pesticide choices was taken away in 1989 in Minnesota. Bill HR718 will restore those rights such as other U.S. states enjoy. These are historical times and policymakers such as yourselves have the responsibility to make important decisions to sustain a healthy world for the future.

Recent science shows that neonic pesticides not only kill pollinators outright but also sicken them at sublethal doses, and recent studies show neonics contaminate water ([Five surface water pesticides of concern, Minnesota MDA 2020](#)), birds are affected ([Neonic reduces migration in songbirds, Eng 2019](#)) and most recently effect large mammals ([Effects of neonics on physiology and reproduction of white-tailed deer, Berheim 2019](#)). Two flagship species, monarch butterfly and rusty patched bumble bee (Minnesota state bee) are under the watchful eyes of Minnesota pollinator researchers and declining numbers of monarchs tell us that pollinators are in big trouble requiring immediate action.

This bill is not a big ask, and it allows a thoughtful approach and is farmer friendly. It allows a city to discriminate between cosmetic use of pesticides in urban areas and agricultural use and provides for a tiered decision-making process to allow only what is necessary. Currently, fifty Minnesota communities passed [Pollinator Protection Resolutions](#) pledging to remove pollinator-lethal pesticides, so we know this is a need. Granting local control does not guarantee increased regulation – rather it allows communities the chance to do what is appropriate in their own backyards, school yards, parks and local public areas for a healthy community. **Please support HF718 by voting YES to keeping Minnesota communities healthy and strong.**

Thank you,
Laurie Schneider, Executive Director,
and the Members of the Board of Directors
Pollinator Friendly Alliance
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Selected support references:

PESTICIDES IN MINNESOTA WATERS: Minnesota Department of Agriculture, *surface water pesticides of concern* (2020)

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/surface-water-pesticides-concern>

POLLINATOR DECLINE: Xerces Society: *The science behind the role neonics play in harming bees*. Jennifer Hopwood, Aimee Code, Mace Vaughan et al. (2016)

https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/16-023_01_XercesSoc_ExecSummary_How-Neonicotinoids-Can-Kill-Bees_web.pdf

NEONIC EFFECTS ON LARGE MAMMALS: Scientific Reports: *Effects of Neonicotinoid Insecticides on Physiology and Reproductive Characteristics of Captive Female and Fawn White-tailed Deer*. Elise Hughes Berheim, Jonathan A. Jenks, Jonathan G. Lundgren, et al. volume 9, Article number: 4534 (2019)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-40994-9>

NEONIC EFFECTS ON SONGBIRDS: Science: *A neonicotinoid insecticide reduces fueling and delays migration in songbirds*. Margaret L. Eng, LeBridget, J. M. Stutchbury, Christy A. Morrissey. Issue 13 Sep 2019: Vol. 365, Issue 6458, pp. 1177-1180.

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/365/6458/1177>

CHLORPYRIFOS and PUBLIC HEALTH: *EPA science says chlorpyrifos exposure threatens public health*. Cara Schulte, July 2019.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/07/22/trump-administration-refuses-ban-neurotoxic-pesticide#>

Bluestem Prairie: *Corteva to stop manufacturing chlorpyrifos by end of year; MN lawmakers asked for ban in 2017*. Sally Sorenson, February 2020.

<https://www.bluestemprairie.com/bluestemprairie/2020/02/corteva-to-stop-manufacturing-chlorpyrifos-by-end-of-year-mn-lawmakers-asked-for-ban-in-2017.html>

POLLINATOR PROTECTION RESOLUTION: *Model resolution for cities, counties, state agencies, school districts*. Pollinator Friendly Alliance, Humming for Bees, Pesticide Action Network, Pollinator Minnesota 2020.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59fcf40ab1ffb6ee9911ad2a/t/5f8fb7dcac3e6348089291a2/1603254237712/MODEL+resolution+2020.pdf>