

Rep Hansen, Committee members:

I ask your support for HF 206, to provide funding for examination of neonicotinoid impacts on game species.

When neonics were initially introduced for agricultural use they were promoted as being safe for mammals. However, in the last 3 years research has revealed abnormalities in physiological and reproductive characteristics of female and fawn white tailed deer exposed to neonics, and neonics have also been found in 61% of the 800 adult deer spleens submitted by hunters. It is critical that more study needs to be done.

Those of us who have been studying the effects of the neonicotinoids on insect pollinators have argued for the restriction of systemic pesticides for many years. It is well documented that these chemicals are impacting the health and survival of many beneficial insects, directly by contact with these chemicals, and indirectly due to the weakening of their immune systems making them more susceptible to pathogens. The decline in pollinator populations in both managed honey bee colonies, and in native pollinators such as bumble bees, should be cause for alarm in and of itself. We need our honey bees for crop pollination and native bees are absolutely essential to sustain the integrity of all our wild and natural habitats. We also need healthy insect populations to feed the birds, including game birds, that depend on them.

Please give the impacts of neonics on game species your careful consideration and support HF 206.

Thank you,
Margot Monson

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