

Date: March 25, 2022

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

Re: Support of HF 766

I grew up on and continue to own our 135 year old family farm in Meeker County. Over the last 15 years, in our area, use of neonic treated corn and soybean seed has increased tremendously and accounts for nearly 100% of land planted to those crops.

Because of poor oversight, education and labeling most of my neighbors don't know that their seed is treated with harmful insecticides and as a result the seed that is spilled or that is left over after planting isn't viewed as the toxic substance that it is. Farmers are not acting with malice or disregard to wild critters or the environment and most, I bet, would abide by any requirements for safe disposal and safe use.

It is not unusual to see deer, pheasants, turkeys, sandhill cranes and other wildlife feeding on spilled or uncovered seed. Although the toxic impacts of neonics to wildlife and the environment is well documented that fact has been poorly communicated to the users of the seed.

Studies prove that the insecticide coating easily washes off the seed into the soil and waterways. This, I believe, is greatly contributing to the drastic population decline to beneficial insects such as dragonflies and pollinators that I've observed on our farm. It's frightening that these declines are accelerating especially when scientific studies back up those observations.

Hf 766 is urgently needed and is a reasonable first step in controlling the terrible impacts of neonics.

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