



March 20, 2014

Gina McCarthy, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

We urge you to prioritize protecting bees and other pollinators from pesticides proven to be harmful. Bees are continuing to die at alarming rates, and science shows that a systemic class of pesticides — neonicotinoids — is a key factor.

Honey bees are responsible for producing one in every three bites of food we eat, but research increasingly shows they are being harmed by the indiscriminate use of neonicotinoids, both alone and in combination with other pesticides. It is the job of the Environmental Protection Agency to review such pesticides for safety and to take action if they are found to be harmful.

Yet despite numerous studies linking neonicotinoids with bee kills, colony collapse, and weakened immune systems, the EPA continues isn't set to conclude until 2018. And in the meantime, neonicotinoids are still on the market and being widely used.

Pollination services provided by honey bees and other pollinators are far too important for agriculture and ecosystems to treat them in a non-precautionary manner. Many thousands of beekeeper livelihoods, the future viability of commercial beekeeping and the crops relying on these pollination services — with an estimated annual value of \$20-30 — are potentially in jeopardy.

Last winter, commercial beekeepers reported losses of 40-70% of their colonies, with many unable to recoup their losses. They report their industry, responsible for pollinating much of the food we eat, is on the verge of collapse.

We ask EPA to recognize that the risks of continued, widespread use of neonicotinoids are unacceptably high. It is time for decisive action, before it truly is too late.

Sincerely,

Jay Feldman, Executive Director
Beyond Pesticides

Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director
Center for Food Safety

Judy Hatcher, Executive Director
Pesticide Action Network North America

Avaaz

Causes

Food Democracy Now!

Friends of the Earth US

Organic Consumers Association

Save Our Environment

SumOfUs

500,609 concerned individuals from 50 states, listed below.