

Support the “Saving America’s Pollinators Act”

H.R. 4079, Reps. Earl Blumenauer, Jim McGovern, et al.

A bill to prohibit the use of pesticides toxic to pollinators

“Saving America’s Pollinators Act” addresses one of the leading threats to falling pollinator populations by:

- Requiring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cancel the registration of neonicotinoids (“neonics”)—a leading cause of mass bee declines—and to suspend other pesticides potentially harmful to pollinators until the agency determines that the pesticides will not cause unreasonable adverse effects.
- Prohibiting the sale or use of existing stocks of neonicotinoids once the bill is enacted.
- Establishing an independent pollinator protection board—comprised of scientists, beekeepers, farmers, and members of environmental and pollinator-health organizations—empowered to review existing and proposed registrations of pesticides labeled for use on plants. The board shall vote regarding whether a pesticide is an unacceptable hazard to pollinators. Pesticides not recommended by the Board will be cancelled or denied registration. Any person may petition the Board to prioritize the review of a pesticide.
- Requiring EPA, Department of Agriculture, and Department of the Interior to track and report on the health of native bee populations.



Bees, birds and other pollinators are in decline

- The U.N. estimates that 40% of invertebrate pollinators are at risk of extinction.
- Nationwide, beekeepers lost approximately 45% of their hives last year, the second worst loss on record. Similar losses have become a disturbing norm over the last decade. These losses, combined with studies finding catastrophic losses of insects worldwide, suggest that wild bees and other insects may be disappearing too. For example, monarch butterfly populations have declined by 80% in 20 years.

Why does this matter?

- Pollinators are responsible for roughly a third of the food we eat and contribute nearly \$30 billion to U.S. farm income. Without pollinators we would lose many of our healthiest foods like apples, almonds, and blueberries.
- Scientists warn that further insect declines could lead to the collapse of whole ecosystems.

Neonics and other insecticides are causing pollinator declines

- Neonics are highly toxic to bees and an enormous body of independent research demonstrates that they are a leading factor contributing to their decline, also harming beneficial organisms essential to functional ecosystems and food production.
- Neonics are the world's most widely used insecticides, used on 140 U.S. crops and countless lawns, gardens, and landscapes across the country.

Action to restrict pollinator-toxic pesticides

- The European Union has banned all outdoor uses of the three most common neonic chemicals to protect pollinators.
- Over 100 cities and states, including Vermont, Connecticut, Minnesota, Maryland, and Oregon, have passed policies to restrict or eliminate these pesticides on city or state property.
- More than 140 retailers, including Home Depot, Lowe's, Costco, Kroger, Walmart, Ace Hardware, True Value and Whole Foods have begun to restrict these pesticides in supply chains.

Supporting Organizations: The bill is endorsed by organizations representing farming, beekeeping, environmental, public health, and consumer interests, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Earth, Beyond Pesticides, Center for Biological Diversity, Earthjustice, Food & Water Watch, American Bird Conservancy, Friends of Family Farmers, Center for Food Safety, National Organic Coalition, Experimental Farm Network, Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides, World Animal Protection, and the Gardeners Association.