

## **PESTICIDE-FREE ZONE DECLARATION ON THE USE OF TOXIC LAWN AND LANDSCAPE PESTICIDES**

WHEREAS, millions of pounds of pesticides are applied on lawns and landscapes each year by homeowners and landscape companies and this use is continuing to rise;

WHEREAS, scientific studies associate exposure to lawn pesticides with asthma, cancer, developmental and learning disabilities, nerve and immune system damage, liver or kidney damage, reproductive impairment, birth defects, and disruption of the endocrine system;

WHEREAS, infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, people with compromised immune systems and chemical sensitivities are especially vulnerable to pesticide effects and exposure;

WHEREAS, lawn pesticides are harmful to pets, wildlife including threatened and endangered species, soil microbiology, plants, and natural ecosystems;

WHEREAS, toxic runoff from chemical fertilizers and pesticides pollute streams and lakes and drinking water sources;

WHEREAS, the use of hazardous pesticides is not necessary to create and maintain green lawns and landscapes given the availability of viable alternatives practices and products;

WHEREAS, people have a right not to be involuntarily exposed to pesticides in the air, water or soil that inevitably result from chemical drift and contaminated runoff; and

WHEREAS, numerous communities and municipalities are embracing a precautionary approach to the use of toxic pesticides and are recognizing the limitations of regulatory agencies to adequately protect people and the environment from pesticides' harmful effects.

### **POLLINATOR ADDENDUM:**

WHEREAS, residential and commercial use of neonicotinoid and other hazardous pesticides on home gardens, public parks, schools, and other local and municipal areas pose unacceptable risk to bees and other pollinators;

WHEREAS, the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high, with annual losses of commercial honey bee colonies increasing by as much as 30 to 90 percent, along with the dramatic decline of other populations of wild bees and other pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the use of hazardous pesticides is not necessary to create and maintain green lawns and landscapes, and home or public gardens, given the availability of viable alternatives practices and

products;

**Therefore, be it resolved that the unnecessary, aesthetic use of toxic lawn and landscape pesticides be replaced with better alternatives. The individuals and organizations signed below support the broad movement for:**

People to replace their use of hazardous lawn pesticides, particularly bee and pollinator toxic pesticides such as neonicotinoids, with non-toxic and least-toxic alternatives and practices.

Retailers to offer varieties of non-toxic and least-toxic lawn care products.

Commercial service providers to offer organic landscape services that account for pollinator services.

Localities to adopt ordinances that prohibit or restrict the use of hazardous pesticides for aesthetic purposes to protect the broader public and pollinators.

States to uphold the rights of local authorities to provide stricter protections from the aesthetic use of pesticides, and if necessary repeal laws that prohibit such authority.

Congress to support the democratic right of localities to adopt ordinances that respond to the demands of their constituents to provide stricter protection of public health and the environment from local pesticide use and exposure.