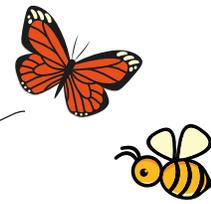


Dear Kroger,



June 17-23 marks the annual National Pollinator Week to recognize the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations that impact our environment and food system. **In the spirit of National Pollinator Week, I urge Kroger do its part to celebrate and protect pollinators by committing to eliminate pollinator-toxic pesticides in its conventional supply chain and increase offerings of domestic organic food.**

**The United Nations recently published a report warning that one million plant and animal species are at risk of extinction. A large percentage of insect species could go extinct within a century, and a key driver is the widespread use of toxic pesticides used in industrial agriculture.** The UN also recently found that the dire state of the world's biodiversity threatens our food security, nutrition, health, livelihoods and environment.

**Recent tests found that Kroger's private label foods contain toxic pesticides** including glyphosate, organophosphates and neonicotinoids. The foods tested were items that kids and families typically eat including cereal, apples, applesauce, spinach and pinto beans. These pesticides are linked to serious adverse human health impacts and pollinator declines.

**Customers like me may purchase these items with the intent of providing safe and healthy food for our families, but end up unknowingly exposing them to toxic pesticides.** Obviously, this situation does not benefit customers like me, our environment or my trust in you as a retailer.

**Other retailers are taking action.** Costco, one of the largest food retailers in the U.S., announced a policy requesting its suppliers of fruits, vegetables and garden plants phase out the use of chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids. The retailer is also "significantly expanding" its offerings of organic products. In addition, over 200 states, businesses and cities have taken steps to restrict these pesticides.

Businesses and governments are taking these steps because neonicotinoids, glyphosate and organophosphates are toxic to human health and the environment. Organic farms — farms that have eliminated all synthetic pesticides — have been shown to support 50 percent more pollinator species than conventional farms, while also protecting and regenerating our water, soil and biodiversity.

Kroger claims to be a leader in food safety. The Kroger website states that keeping food safe is "part of everything we do and a condition of working with Kroger for our suppliers and partners." We applaud such a commitment. But even the most stringent food safety standard is meaningless if it doesn't account for the toxic pesticides present in common grocery items, especially Kroger's house brand.

**Kroger, be a true leader — commit to keeping our families, pollinators and the environment safe. Please celebrate National Pollinator Week by protecting the world's pollinators from toxic pesticides. Stop selling food grown with hazardous synthetic pesticides and increase your offerings of domestically produced organic food.** Your customers will thank you and so will the bees and other pollinators essential to our food supply and the environment.

To learn more please visit [www.BeeAction.org](http://www.BeeAction.org) or contact [beeaction@foe.org](mailto:beeaction@foe.org).

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

