

McDaniel Honey Farm
4964 Wentz Road, Manchester, Maryland 21102

February 12, 2020

Chairman Kumar Barve
Vice Chair Dana Stein
Members of the House Environmental & Transportation Committee

Testimony in Support of HB 229: Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos - Prohibition

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am a professional beekeeper for over 30 years and a Board Member of the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association. I am also Past President of the Central Maryland Beekeepers Association, the Carroll County Beekeepers Association, and the Maryland State Beekeepers Association, as well as being certified as a Master Beekeeper (one of about 150 in the U.S.) by the Eastern Apicultural Society. I have a degree in chemistry from Harvard.

In 2017, many of the bees in my hives died on the ground in my apiary. The Maryland Department of Agriculture answered my call for help, and an MDA employee came and collected samples of the dead bees on the ground and the comb inside the hives. The MDA found one insecticide from their tests: chlorpyrifos. The amount was listed as a 'trace' because their test was not very sensitive. The limit of detection--20 ppb--is more than enough to kill a bee. I did not even know that chlorpyrifos was being used on farms in my neighborhood near Manchester, but it appears that chemical likely killed my bees.

Honeybees are far more than just bugs in a box. They are critical to agriculture for pollination of fruits and vegetables. Bees in Maryland are in serious decline. In the last ten years, beekeepers have been contending with unacceptably high losses of 50-100% annually. This is financially unsustainable and county bee associations are experiencing significant attrition as people leave beekeeping after several years of such losses. These losses have a financial impact for the beekeeper, who invests to replace lost hives and then labors all year so the new hive will produce a honey crop the following summer.

I estimate that the deaths of my bees since 2012 have cost me over \$100,000, and I am a small-scale beekeeper trying to maintain about 20 colonies. I am currently down to three, from 18 in September. With losses over 10-15%, beekeeping is a losing proposition that is unsustainable for the beekeeper and ultimately will impact farmers' production and the cost of food. Chlorpyrifos is the second most harmful pesticide for bees and the third most prevalent pesticide found in honeybee hives. It causes brain damage to bees, impairing critical communication and navigation function, and harms reproduction.

Chlorpyrifos is a deadly poison, chemically similar to nerve gas. It is an act of desperation to use it on a farm, as there are many other options that are not as toxic. In my opinion, it should never have been allowed to be sold in the first place, especially considering the severe damage it does to people's nervous systems. Children are especially sensitive to it, and many kids now suffer from learning disabilities that may have been avoided. The EPA studied it for many years and made the decision to ban it nationally, which was overturned by the current administration. For decades, it has been killing bees and harming people because the EPA did not do its job of protecting the environment, the bees, and us. It is now up to you to do their job for them by banning the use and sale of chlorpyrifos in Maryland. It is only one state, but it is our state. Please support HB 229.

Thank you,
Stephen McDaniel



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary
James P. Eichhorst, Deputy Secretary

Pesticide Regulation

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
www.mda.maryland.gov

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

410.841.5710 Baltimore/Washington
410.841.2765 Fax
800.492.5590 Toll Free

December 20, 2017

STEPHEN MCDANIEL
4964 WENTZ ROAD
MANCHESTER MD 21102

Re: **Report of Findings** – Stephen McDaniel vs. Lawn Doctor of Reisterstown;
Complaint Investigation No. 370106/17

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Regulation Section has conducted an investigation in reference to a complaint you filed against Lawn Doctor of Reisterstown.

The investigation of your complaint was conducted by Inspector Russel Noratel, of our staff. As part of his investigation, Inspector Noratel met with you and performed an on-site inspection of your property. You stated that after a pesticide application was performed by Lawn Doctor, to your neighbor's property, you started to observe your bees dying. You further stated that your neighbor, Mr. Jim Sporny was mixing a solution of borate, sugar and water, which he placed in a bowl, on his property, in order to kill your bees. During his on-site inspection, Inspector Noratel collected several samples from your hives, with your assistance.

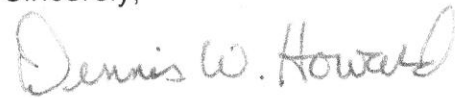
In addition to his on-site inspection, Inspector Noratel contacted Lawn Doctor to discuss your complaint and to request pesticide application records. Inspector Noratel also met with the applicator, Mr. Michael Duvall and collected a written statement describing his application to Mr. Sporny's property. Both the pesticide application records and Mr. Duvall's statement indicate the pesticide products Greenyard Crabgrass Preventer (Prodiamine), Mec Amine D (2,4 D, Dicamba, Mecoprop) and Merit plus Fertilizer (Imidacloprid) were applied to Mr. Sporny's property)

The samples collected by Inspector Noratel were submitted to the Department's State Chemist Section. The State Chemist Section conducted a pesticide screen, analyzing the samples for approximately 200 different pesticides. None of the active ingredients applied by Lawn Doctor were detected. However, the lab found small trace amounts of Atrazine and Chlorpyrifos in the honey comb sample. Trace amounts of Atrazine were also found in the bee sample (summary enclosed).

Upon concluding our investigation, this office has no conclusive evidence to indicate that the pesticide application conducted by Mr. Duvall resulted in the death of your bees. Therefore, at this time it is our intention to close our file in this matter.

Should you have any comments or questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis W. Howard".


Dennis W. Howard, Chief
Pesticide Regulation Section

Enclosure

DWH: rh

cc: file

Complaint file
Lawn Doctor
Rob Hofstetter

REPORT OF ANALYSIS MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  State Chemist 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy. Annapolis, MD 21401	1. SAMPLE NO.	11372
	2. DATE COLLECTED	June 7, 2017
	3. REGION	03
	4. EPA REG. NO.	NA
	5. ESTABLISHMENT NO.	NA

6. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE
 Amber glass jar filled with bees and placed into a poly bag with MDA seal applied.

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF ESTABLISHMENT WHERE SAMPLE WAS COLLECTED	8. PRODUCT NAME
Stephen McDaniel 4964 Wentz Road Manchester, Md 21102 0	bees
	9. LOT OR CODE NUMBER(s)
	NA


10. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICATOR
 0
 0
 0

11. RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

Sample Identification: 11372
 Pesticide Screen, Pesticides Detected: Atrazine - trace
 Limit of Detection - 4 ppb

Sec. 9(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136g) requires that if an analysis is made of any sample collected in connection with the enforcement of the Act, a copy of the results of such analysis must be furnished promptly to the owner, operator or agent in charge of the establishment where the sample was collected.
 The information contained in this report should not be used in the labeling, advertising, or other promotion of the product analyzed.
 Additional information regarding results of analysis may be obtained from the individual listed below.

NAME AND TITLE OF THE OFFICIAL		ADDRESS OF REGIONAL OFFICE (Include ZIP code)
Rob Hofstetter Entomologist Supervisor		MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION 50 HARRY S TRUMAN PARKWAY ANNAPOLIS MD 21401
PHONE NUMBER	DATE	
410-841-5710	12/20/2017	

REPORT OF ANALYSIS MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  State Chemist 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy. Annapolis, MD 21401	1. SAMPLE NO.	11373
	2. DATE COLLECTED	June 7, 2017
	3. REGION	03
	4. EPA REG. NO.	NA
	5. ESTABLISHMENT NO.	NA

6. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE
 Amber glass jar containing honey comb and placed into a poly bag with MDA seal applied.

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF ESTABLISHMENT WHERE SAMPLE WAS COLLECTED	8. PRODUCT NAME
Stephen McDaniel 4964 Wentz Road Manchester, Md 21102 0	honey comb
	9. LOT OR CODE NUMBER(s) NA

10. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICATOR
 0
 0
 0

11. RESULTS OF ANALYSIS

Sample Identification	Pesticide Screen, Pesticides Detected
11373	Atrazine - trace Chlorpyrifos - trace
	Limit of Detection - 4 ppb Limit of Detection - 20 ppb

Sec. 9(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 136g) requires that if an analysis is made of any sample collected in connection with the enforcement of the Act, a copy of the results of such analysis must be furnished promptly to the owner, operator or agent in charge of the establishment where the sample was collected.
 The information contained in this report should not be used in the labeling, advertising, or other promotion of the product analyzed.
 Additional information regarding results of analysis may be obtained from the individual listed below.

NAME AND TITLE OF MDA OFFICIAL		ADDRESS OF REGIONAL OFFICE (Include ZIP code) MDA MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PESTICIDE REGULATION SECTION 50 HARRY S TRUMAN PARKWAY ANNAPOLIS MD 21401
Rob Hestler, Entomologist Supervisor		
PHONE NUMBER	DATE	
410-841-5710	12/20/2017	

(127)