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(delivered via email)

January 27, 2021

Chair Kumar Barve and Members
House Environment & Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Suggestions on HB 208: prohibition on the sale or use of neonicotinoid pesticides

Dear Chair Kumar Barve and Members:

The Treated Wood Council (TWC) is pleased to offer this information and these suggestions regarding HB 208, scheduled for consideration by the Committee on Friday, January 29th. TWC has been working with Vice Chair Dana Stein and Delegate Anne Healey, sponsors of HB 208, in an attempt to include a minor amendment in the legislation.

TWC is an international trade association, serving the treated wood industry with more than 500 member organizations, including those with six headquarters and/or facilities in Maryland [Eden, Federalsburg, Fruitland, Hebron, Huntington, and Snow Hill].

HB 208 is intended to amend Sections 5-2A-01 and 5-2A-02 of the Agriculture Article of the Laws of Maryland pertaining to the sale and use of any neonicotinoid pesticide, including those containing imidacloprid, related to the protection of pollinators. Imidacloprid is used in many different types of pesticide products, including, as a component in several wood preservative pesticides. These pesticides are only used either within a sealed steel cylinder or inside an enclosed building at secure facilities by trained technicians, and are not sold or distributed to the public. (Please see the photograph at the end.) There is no atmospheric or pollinator exposure caused by the use of these wood preservative pesticides.

We do not believe that any restriction or ban on the sale or use of these wood preservative pesticides is intended in HB 208.

We have suggested to Delegates Stein and Healey a minor addition in the text of HB 208, where it amends Section 5-2A-02 (suggested additional language in red):

5-2A-02.

(a) [(1)] This section does not apply to:

[(i)] (1) Pet care products used to mitigate fleas, mites, ticks, 26 heartworms, or other animals that are harmful to the health of a domesticated animal;

[(ii)] (2) Personal care products used to mitigate lice and bedbugs;

[(iii)] (3) Indoor pest control products used to mitigate insects indoors, including ant bait;

(4) WOOD PRESERVATIVE PRODUCTS.

[(2)] (B) (1) On or after January 1, 2018, a person may not sell at retail in the State a neonicotinoid pesticide unless the person also sells a restricted use pesticide[, as defined in § 5-201 of this title].

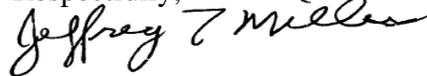
(2) A PERSON THAT SELLS A NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

(I) MAY SELL A NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDE ONLY TO A CERTIFIED APPLICATOR OR A FARMER; AND

(II) SHALL STORE EACH NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDE BEHIND THE COUNTER AND IN A MANNER THAT IS INACCESSIBLE TO A CUSTOMER WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE FROM THE PERSON OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PERSON.

We ask you to support this amendment on January 29th, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our suggestions with you. We are available to meet or confer with you on these recommendations. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey T. Miller

President & Executive Director
Treated Wood Council



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