



HB0091

Agriculture - Neonicotinoid Pesticides - Prohibitions

Testimony before Environment and Transportation

Hearing Date: February 2, 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Honorable Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michelle Carras, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB0091** which would enact certain prohibitions against the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. We thank Delegates Healey and Ruth for introducing this bill.

Neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) are one of the most toxic pesticides in use today in the U.S. They have already been banned in Europe, and we must now recognize their dangers.

- Neonics don't discriminate: they kill the insects we don't want on our crops, but also the bees and butterflies we need to keep plants pollinated.
- Neonics have been identified as a leading cause of massive bee die-offs and have threatened almost 200 species with extinction.
- They build up in the soil, leading to runoff into our waterways.
- Through this runoff, they make their way into our water supply, where chlorination fails to remove them.
- Neonic exposure is therefore common in humans, with potential harms such as lower cognitive abilities in children, altered hormone regulation in adults, and metabolic changes.

Banning these highly toxic pesticides in Maryland is long overdue and HB0091 gives us the opportunity to do that. Please act now to ban neonics in Maryland.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. **We respectfully urge a favorable report.**

Michelle Carras
Indivisible HoCoMD
Ellicott City, MD

Reference: Effects of Neonicotinoids on Humans and Bees." NRDC: Natural Resources Defense Council, 11 June 2025, <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/neonicotinoids-101-effects-humans-and-bees>.