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Dear Chairman Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

We have used Neonics in our turfgrass programs for years specifically as a grub prevention application. We also use it in some tree and shrub applications as well on a much smaller scale.

Other products are available on the market to accomplish the same goal of grub prevention but at a much higher cost. Trade names of Acelepyrn and Durentis are both commonly available to our industry but at a much higher price point. These price points are around \$120 and \$100 per acre while Bandit (Neonic) is around \$15 per acre. We treat about 1000 acres with grub control products so that would cost us an additional \$105,000 or \$85,000 to make a change at the current pricing. This would be very challenging for us to overcome this financially if it were mandated.

I know one of the major concerns is pollinator safety with these products. We are training our technicians to avoid bee hives and things of that nature but because people are buying lawn care services and we are providing them with a weed free lawn, we typically do not see pollinators in the actual lawns we treat.

- Neonicotinoids provide long-lasting, systemic protection that alternatives often cannot replicate. For example, trunk or soil soaks for ornamental plants and trees provide long lasting control with little to no pollinator exposure.
- Taking an entire class of pesticides out of the toolbox for pest control in lawn care is not consistent with Integrated Pest Management and may result in resistance and loss of efficacy.
- Neonics remain approved for use at the federal level by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA has been engaged in multi-year biological evaluations of neonicotinoids, including their effects on endangered species, pollinators and critical habitats as part of the Endangered Species Act process. EPA released updated pollinator risk assessments and proposed interim decisions in January 2020 as part of its ongoing neonicotinoid registration review any changes to allowed use should respect and align with that federal process rather than preempt it.
- Certified applicators are trained professionals able to apply pesticides according to the labeled directions mitigating risks to non-target species and the environment.

Thanks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Cline".

Matt Cline

Chief Operating Officer