

SUPPORT HB 91

Neonicotinoid pesticides (“neonics”) are widely used insecticides but are increasingly recognized as a major threat to the ecosystem and humans. Because of this they are banned in Europe. Neonics are systemic and cannot be washed off of food like fruits, vegetables and honey. They also contaminate drinking water and cannot be removed with traditional methods.

Chronic, low-level exposure has been linked to serious reproductive issues, low testosterone, low sperm count and developmental harm to a baby fetus. Neonics are highly toxic to bees and have caused massive loss of honeybees. Because they are water soluble, they have severely harmed water life and birds. Unlike older pesticides, neonics are long lasting and contaminate the soil and water for years.

Up to 90% of US corn and about half of all soybeans are grown from seeds treated with neonics. However, studies have shown that these prophylactic applications provide little to no economic benefit to farmers. Please support HB 91, which prohibits the use of neonics except for special circumstances.

Sincerely,
Mark Meyerovich
District 15