



## **Resolution 24-01**

*Resolution type: Policy Statement*

### **Resolution to Support Reducing the Use of Neonicotinoids in Montana**

Submitted by: Gallatin Conservation District

*Passed as amended at Area 6 Meeting 9/24/2024*

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#### **1. BACKGROUND DESCRIBING ISSUE \***

Whereas, neonicotinoids are a group of insecticides widely used on a variety of crops, turf, ornamentals, pets, and other residential and commercial indoor and outdoor settings;

Whereas, neonicotinoids are used as seed dressings on major field crops and are additionally applied as sprays in crop production, in managing household pests, and in deterring pests on domesticated animals;

Whereas, scientific research has indicated that neonicotinoids pose significant risks to pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects, which are crucial for ecosystem health and agricultural productivity;

Whereas, neonicotinoids are a leading suspect in colony collapse disorder, with these highly toxic pesticides poisoning bees' nervous systems and impacting their ability to learn, reproduce, and fight infections;

Whereas, large-scale bee deaths have a cascading effect on entire ecosystems, threatening the survival of plants and the animals that rely on those plants as a food source, thereby disrupting the entire food chain;

Whereas, the decline in pollinator populations has been linked to the increased use of neonicotinoids, threatening biodiversity and food security;

Whereas, studies have shown that neonicotinoids can persist in soil and water, leading to broader environmental contamination and potential harm to aquatic life and other non-target species;

Whereas, research over the last decade has shown that neonicotinoids affect not only insects but also vertebrates, including birds, reptiles, fish, and mammals, with impacts on growth, development, and reproduction observed in both laboratory and field studies;

Whereas, treated seeds coated with high concentrations of neonicotinoids pose a significant risk to granivorous species that consume these seeds, and residues in crops and surrounding soil can also affect wildlife that feeds on treated plants or contaminated water bodies;

Whereas, alternative pest management strategies, including integrated pest management (IPM) practices, can effectively control pests while minimizing harm to pollinators and the environment;

Whereas, several states have already taken steps to restrict or ban the use of neonicotinoids in response to the growing body of evidence regarding their environmental impact;

Sources:

[\*A review of the direct and indirect effects of neonicotinoids and fipronil on vertebrate wildlife\* David Gibbons, Christy Morrissey, and Pierre Mineau](#)

[\*Effects of Neonicotinoid Insecticides on Physiology and Reproductive Characteristics of Captive Female and Fawn White-tailed Deer\* Elise Hughes Berheim, Jonathan A. Jenks, Jonathan G. Lundgren, Eric S. Michel, Daniel Grove & William F. Jensen](#)

<https://www.xerces.org/blog/states-make-way-for-pesticide-reforms>

<https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/21-020.pdf>

[https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2017/sb0299/SB0247\\_1.pdf](https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2017/sb0299/SB0247_1.pdf) SENATE BILL NO. 247 2 INTRODUCED BY M. PHILLIPS was introduced during the 65th Montana Legislature, a part of this bill was PROHIBITING THE OUTDOOR USE OF NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES. It was reduced to REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREPARE A STATE POLLINATOR REPORT.

<https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2021/billpdf/HB0410.pdf> HOUSE BILL NO. 410 2 INTRODUCED BY A. OLSEN was introduced during the 67th Legislature to GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO PROVIDING FOR A STATE POLICY ON POLLINATORS; REQUIRING NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS FOR CERTAIN STATE LANDS TO SEED OR PLANT NATIVE PLANTS FRIENDLY TO ANIMAL POLLINATORS, TO

PROHIBIT THE USE OF NEONICOTINOID INSECTICIDES, AND TO REIMBURSE PERSONS FOR DAMAGE TO APIARIES; AUTHORIZING POLLINATOR SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES TO FUND THE POLLINATOR SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A PROGRAM TO REIMBURSE FOR LOSSES AND DAMAGES TO APIARIES; AUTHORIZING DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO COUNTY WEED DISTRICTS FOR POLLINATOR HABITAT. It was edited to GENERALLY REVISING LAWS RELATED TO PROVIDING FOR A STATE POLICY ON POLLINATORS; PROVIDING FOR POLLINATOR PROTECTION PLANS; CREATING THE POLLINATOR PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE; REVISING FUND TRANSFERS TO FUND THE POLLINATOR SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT; PROVIDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A PROGRAM TO AWARD GRANTS; AUTHORIZING DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO COUNTY WEED DISTRICTS FOR POLLINATOR HABITAT.

<https://www.seeleylake.com/story/2021/03/25/news/montanas-proposed-pollinator-protection-act-seeks-to-help-save-the-bees/7176.html>

## **2. SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE \***

Gallatin Conservation District hosts a pollinator initiative and works with local partners to promote pollinator-friendly gardens. A part of our work is encouraging gardeners to reduce or eliminate their pesticide use within their plots due to the adverse effects on pollinators and other non-target species.

## **3. ACTUAL POLICY STATEMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN MACD POLICY BOOK IF ADOPTED \***

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. Promotion of Alternatives: MACD encourages adopting alternative pest management practices, such as integrated pest management (IPM), that reduce reliance on chemical insecticides and promote ecological balance.
2. Support for Research: MACD advocates for increased research into the effects of neonicotinoids on pollinators and the environment and the development and dissemination of safer, sustainable pest management solutions.

## **4. HOW WILL YOUR DISTRICT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND BE INVOLVED WITH THIS POLICY STATEMENT/STANCE? \***

GCD would be willing to watch for bills that fall in line with this policy statement and notify MACD. GCD would be willing to invite and assist experts to testify in front of the Legislature if requested.

## **5. ARE THERE ANY EXISTING MACD POLICIES THAT THIS WOULD IMPACT OR INTERACT WITH?**

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None at this time.

**6. HOW WOULD THIS POLICY IMPACT MACD? \***

If a bill does come up within the legislature MACD staff would write a letter of support for the bill. Could gain MACD stronger partnerships amongst conservation groups that also support reducing the use of neonicotinoids for pollinators, wildlife, livestock health, and water quality.

**7. WOULD THIS POLICY STATEMENT IMPACT THE STATE OF MONTANA BUDGET? IF SO, HOW?**

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No impact.

**8. MEETING AND DATE ADOPTED BY SPONSORING ENTITY**

**August Business Meeting on 8/15/2024**

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S) \***

**Jason Camp, Chair**

*(See original PDF submission for official signature)*