

Overall CTA for overall neonics benefits:

Dear EPA Assistant Administrator Jim Jones and USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden,
[electronic cc's based on zip code input]

I am a xxxxxxxx *[drop down menu listout that allows customization so scanners see the letter as "unique" instead of as a form letter]* and am writing to express my concern about the federal government's review of neonicotinoids.

My concern is not about the review itself, but rather that the science-based process is breaking down due to outside political pressure. A science-based process was laid out for registration review of neonicotinoids, and I urge the government to maintain its commitment to this important process.

The USDA's honey bee colony health survey suggests that honey bee health is improving, not declining. The EPA and USDA have jointly determined that while field-level exposure of pesticides to bees deserves further study, observed colony losses are due to a "complex set of stressors and pathogens."

I am concerned that the government is rushing to action in spite of its own findings, especially given the recent announcement by EPA that undervalues the socio-economic benefits that modern seed treatments provide to soybean growers and the recent White House recommendation against use of insecticide-treated plants on federal property.

Neonicotinoids are important for crop protection, pest management and preservation of our urban landscapes. The management of destructive and invasive insect pests depends on safe and effective products for integrated pest management (IPM) programs.

I fully support the goal of protecting pollinators, while meeting the growing need for abundant and affordable food and safe and beautiful urban landscapes. New information and reports show that restricting neonicotinoids would force growers and landscape professionals to use more foliar sprays in place of targeted soil applications, apply more insecticides overall, use less selective products and would undermine the government's stated goal to promote IPM. It is hard to see how this step would benefit U.S. agriculture, our urban landscapes or pollinator health.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue.