

Feb 28, 2023

Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen, Chair
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Dear Chair Cohen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking up the important issue of pollinator decline. My name is Willa Childress, and I am submitting this written testimony on behalf of Pesticide Action Network's 264 members in Nevada to register strong support for AB 162. We work alongside rural community members, beekeepers, family farmers, and others concerned about the impacts of pesticides on their health and livelihood.

This bill is a common-sense measure to curb the use of pollinator-toxic pesticides in Nevada. The science has been clear for years—neonicotinoid pesticides are a leading driver of pollinator declines. Of course, pesticides are not the only cause of pollinator decline; loss of good forage and habitat, climate change, and diseases and parasites all have a role to play. But as international bodies and state agencies across the country have found, the evidence linking neonicotinoids with pollinator decline is strong. Without finding ways to reduce pollinator exposure to pesticides, we cannot turn the tide on pollinator decline.

Pollinators are responsible for about one in three bites of food we eat. Ongoing declines in our honeybee and native pollinator populations are projected to have a massive impact on our food supply, something we can all appreciate more after experiencing an increasing number of supply chain issues over the past few years. Pollinators' role in the ecosystem is equally important—and threatened.

Finally, an emerging body of research suggests that exposure to neonicotinoids—previously assumed to be a “safer” class of pesticides for human health—increases the risk of birth defects, memory loss, and breast cancer.

It's up to time for Nevadans to take a step towards protecting our pollinators and communities. AB 162 would do just that.

Thank you for your consideration,

Willa Childress
Organizing Co-Director
Pesticide Action Network North America