



March 1, 2023

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources,

I am writing on behalf of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada in support of Assembly Bill 162.

The pollinator crisis is a widely recognized threat to our national and state food supply.<sup>1</sup> Neonicotinoids, pesticides chemically similar to nicotine, are closely linked to recent pollinator population declines, particularly among bee species.<sup>2</sup> Neonicotinoids, in addition to their known impact on pollinators, have also been linked to potential human health issues, including but not limited to immune function, reduced growth in adolescents, and genotoxicity.<sup>3</sup> Countries around the globe are now starting to limit the amount of neonicotinoids that can be used on agricultural lands or implementing outright bans of the pesticide. Places that have taken such measures have seen significant recovery among pollinator populations and accordingly, healthier ecosystems that foster agricultural success<sup>4</sup>.

Nevada is home to over 1,000 species of bees,<sup>5</sup> and is reliant on healthy and intact pollinator populations for agriculture. Nevada's rural economies are reliant on successful crop yields, that are, in turn, reliant on pollination.<sup>6</sup>

Banning neonicotinoids and allowing for further pesticide regulation is not only an environmental and ecological issue—it is an environmental justice one. While some people can and will continue to afford organic groceries free of pesticides, lower income communities are reliant upon government regulation for safely grown crops. Our communities deserve access to healthy and toxin free food, and our agriculture workers deserve intact pollinator populations to help grow the food you and I eat every day.

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<sup>1</sup><https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/pii/S1877343513000493?token=68A6BDC84DF8F6FF0062B24F4D7AED1EB8AF63C674016AB980F5B812506E4EE069D2A0525E91BF0EF27BBBF49A3C34BE&originRegion=us-east-1&originCreation=20230228062317>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-releases-draft-biological-evaluations-three-neonicotinoids-public-comment>

<sup>3</sup><https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/getauthorversionpdf/C9EM00586B>

<sup>4</sup><https://doi.org/10.1038/ncomms12459>

<sup>5</sup><https://nevadabugs.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Nevada-Bee-Guide-small-size.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>[https://agri.nv.gov/Administration/Administration/Agriculture\\_in\\_Nevada/](https://agri.nv.gov/Administration/Administration/Agriculture_in_Nevada/)

Sincerely,

Olivia Tanager  
*Environmental Justice Program Manager*  
*Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada*

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*The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada was founded in 1994 by Nevada activists to build a more fair and just Nevada that puts people and planet first. We organize with front line communities and directly impacted leaders for policy changes and community investments that improve the lives of Nevadans.*