

Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
By
Nancy Alderman, President

Bill 231

AN ACT CONCERNING POLLINATOR HEALTH

**Senator Ted Kennedy, Representative James Albis and Members
of the Environment Committee:**

**Environment and Human Health, Inc. is pleased to support Bill
231**

Neonicotinoids are the largest class of *insecticides* in the world. They are systemic - which means when they are applied to a plant they will enter every part of that plant. This is one of the issues that makes them so harmful to Bees.

We are pleased that this Bill will protect Bees from neonicotinoid exposures when they feed on linden/basswood trees as Bees love these trees and make Linden honey from feeding on them.

We are also pleased that this Bill will protect Bees during the "blooming season" so when they feed on flowers, the Bees will not be killed by the neonicotinoid pesticides.

The Federal Government has asked each state to do something to help protect Bees. We are dependent on Bees for our food supply, as they are important pollinators of our plants. Bees are dying off at an alarming rate, so fast in fact, that the Federal Government is ringing the alarm bells.

In May of last year, in an effort to help the declining bee and butterfly populations, the White House announced new steps to protect the pollinators.

The recommendations of the task force, released February 23, 2016, is the result of that investigation and calls for a look at certain pesticides and land-use practices which could potentially be harmful, and one of the reasons the populations are in jeopardy.

The report notes that while pesticides play a role in agricultural production and health, the "misuse and overuse" of pesticides have led to "adverse ecological human health consequences."

"Mitigating the effects of pesticides on bees is a priority for the Federal Government," the report states.

"Preventing continued losses of our country's pollinators requires immediate national attention," a report from the Pollinator Health Task Force states, "pollinators play a critical role in maintaining diverse ecosystems and in supporting agricultural production."

According to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, honeybee pollination adds \$15 billion in value to crops every year.

This Bill will help fulfill the request that the Federal Government has asked of all of us.

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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