

Proposed Federal Pesticide Legislation

HR7266 - To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

HR7266 would, amend federal pesticide law, **negating any existing or future local ordinances requiring more stringent regulations than those set by the state or by EPA.** The bill, which is expected to be incorporated into the next Farm Bill, is a direct attack on the scores of local communities that have enacted common sense safeguards from toxic pesticides, and represents the pesticide industry's response to the growing momentum of the pesticide reform movement.

Please let your federal representative know that you are opposed to HR7266.

Background on local ordinances: Norwalk and Stamford, CT both have enacted ordinances restricting use of hazardous pesticides on town owned properties. Other towns are working on such regulations. HR7266 would negate any such protections.

Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act of 2021

The Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act of 2021 (**PACTPA**) would remove dangerous pesticides within our farm system. Specifically, this **legislation would update the federal legislation by banning the most damaging pesticides** that have been scientifically proven to harm the safety of people and our environment.

PACTPA also contains a provision affirming local authority to restrict pesticides.

Please let your federal representatives and senator know of your support for this bill.

Background on pesticides: Each year, the United States uses over a billion pounds of pesticides — nearly a fifth of worldwide use. Once they're approved, pesticides often remain on the market for decades, even when scientific evidence overwhelmingly shows a pesticide is causing harm to people or the environment. In 2017 and 2018, the Environmental Protection Agency registered more than 100 pesticides containing ingredients widely considered to be dangerous.

Approximately one-third of annual U.S. pesticide use — over 300 million pounds from 85 different pesticides — comes from pesticides that are banned in the European Union. The pesticide regulation statute, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act of 1972 (FIFRA), contains many loopholes that put the interests of the pesticide industry above the health and safety of people and our environment.

Saving America's Pollinator Act

Saving America's Pollinator Act (**SAPA**), introduced by Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), has been reintroduced and **would take decision-making out of the hands of the EPA by creating a**

Pollinator Protection Board. The Board would be comprised of farmers, beekeepers, and scientists, ensuring that not just industry interests would be recognized. The creation of this Board reflects that the time for requesting incremental action from the EPA has passed.

An even more importantly, the bill requires a **ban on all neonicotinoid pesticides** which are harming pollinators as well as other beneficial insects and contributing to the current massive loss of global biodiversity.

Please let your federal representatives know of your support of the provisions of SAPA.

Background on neonicotinoids: We know that neonicotinoids are responsible for the deaths and debilitating effects on both honeybees and native bees. The last decade saw American beekeepers lose over 30% of their hives annually. And wild pollinators are experiencing declines that threaten their extinction. The iconic American Bumblebee has lost 89% of its population over the last 20 years. Populations of eastern monarchs have declined by 80% since the 1990s.

Additionally, beneficial soil dwelling insects, benthic aquatic insects, and grain-eating vertebrates like songbirds are in danger from neonicotinoid use. Neonicotinoids work their way up and down the food chain, from the plants that depend upon pollination, to the people that rely on healthy, nutrient dense food that pollination provides.

Neonics have effects on human health. The latest research links neonicotinoids to nervous system toxicity, reproductive damage, and birth defects. In particular, reviews have found links to birth defects of the heart and brain.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Recovering America's Wildlife Act (**RAWA**) is said to be the most effective tool in combating biodiversity loss since the Endangered Species Act. It would establish \$1.39 billion for wildlife conservation disbursed each year to states, territories and tribal nations according to need. These funds will help endangered and threatened species before they become extinct. [Washington Is on the Brink of Doing Something Right for America's Wildlife – DNYuz](#)

Bipartisan support has resulted in passage in the House (231-to 190) in June this year. The Senate has yet to act on the bill.

Of course, supporting endangered species is something that we should support in their own right, but recognizing that human life is inextricably intertwined with wildlife and natural habitats, may be the hook to rethinking about endangered species and their importance. Please contact your Senator and express your support for RAWA.