



Agriculture and Food - Pollinators

Whereas: Bees and other pollinators are responsible for at least a third of the food we eat; and,

Whereas: Bees and other pollinators are in deep trouble –honey bee colonies are collapsing at an unprecedented rate, a problem known as Colony Collapse Disorder; and,

Whereas: Pesticides, especially systemic pesticides, are a key contributor to Colony Collapse Disorder, and they are unavoidable for foraging bees; and,

Whereas: In fall of 2013, several hives in Minneapolis were killed by a legal pesticide application; and,

Whereas: The Cities in Minnesota cannot help protect bees, pets, or kids from pesticides because the State has preempted local laws regulating “any matter relating to the registration, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application, or disposal of pesticides” (Statute 18b.02); and,

Whereas: *Systemic* pesticides are not consistent with Integrated Pest Management best practices, and pose particular risks by their chronic exposure to bees and other beneficial insects; and,

Whereas: Though the State requires licensed pesticide applicators to inform them of every application, this information is not available to the public,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party supports addressing the crisis facing pollinators through three statute changes:

- 1) Give municipalities the authority to regulate some aspects of the sale and use of pesticides for non-agricultural purposes, and
- 2) Make the information the State of Minnesota already receives about pesticide applications available to the public, and
- 3) Require all nurseries, garden shops, hardware stores and any business selling plants, to let the public know whether or not the plant has been treated in any way with *systemic* pesticides from the neonicotinoid family.