



March 21, 2023

To: Members of Minnesota House of Representatives Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
Chair Rick Hansen

Re: Please Support [HF 1317](#) to provide better stewardship of pesticide-treated seed

Dear Chair Hansen and Committee members,

On behalf of the member organizations of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, I urge the Committee to support H.F. 1317, a bill to require better stewardship of pesticide coated corn and soybean seed. This legislation would protect Minnesotans and our natural environment from contamination that is becoming more apparent in our water and ecosystems.

The buildup of neonicotinoids in Minnesota wildlife, such as the state's deer herd, is a visible sign of the impacts already taking place in our environment. Many of our pollinators, on which our broader ecosystem and public health depend, are increasingly endangered by the use of neonicotinoids. Despite the harmful effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on pollinators, wildlife, and people, protections against contamination from these pesticides are limited.

Currently, there are not adequate federal or Minnesota state safeguards for the health of people and the environment from contamination due to coated seed. Furthermore, pesticide coated seed is currently not regulated as a pesticide in Minnesota. This loophole allows for casual use and mishandling of these pesticides that can be devastating to ecosystems and human health.

Proper disposal, storage, and re-use of these seeds can help limit pesticide drift and exposure to non-target species. Currently, there is not a comprehensive law with formal rules to provide real protections from the risks presented by coated seed. [MPCA has a single fact sheet](#) that provides guidance for coated seed use, but it is not sufficient in addressing the magnitude of the problem.

Some states and countries are taking more far-reaching steps, banning neonicotinoids outright or restricting their use. This comparatively modest step will give our state a tool to put safe practices into law, so that disasters don't occur and pesticide drift is reduced. It will create reasonable, actionable protections for our people and our pollinators. Please support H.F. 1317.

Thank you for your attention to these underlying concerns. We look forward to working with you to implement these protections.

Sincerely,

Steve Morse
Executive Director

Submitted on behalf of the following organizations:

Clean River Partners

Climate Land Leaders

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Lakeville Friends of the Environment*

League of Women Voters Minnesota

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Minnesota Ornithologists Union

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Pollinate Minnesota*

Pollinator Friendly Alliance

Renewing the Countryside

Roots Return Heritage Farm*

Saint Paul Audubon Society

Xerces Society*

**denotes non-MEP member organization*