

September 16, 2015

James Blome, President and CEO
Bayer CropScience
2 TW Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709

Dear Mr. Blome,

We, the undersigned individuals and organizations, request your presence at an event to **commence at 11:00AM on Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the North Carolina State Capitol Building in Raleigh, North Carolina** where we will ask Bayer CropScience to suspend production, sale, and distribution of products containing neonicotinoids. We will be delivering a petition, which more than 500,000 people from across the United States have signed, calling on Bayer CropScience to suspend their production, sale, and distribution of neonicotinoids. Given the state of pollinators, and other beneficial insects across the world, we feel that this is an urgent matter that requires your undivided attention. We are asking that Bayer CropScience uphold its principle of biodiversity where it is stated, “that any loss of biodiversity poses a risk to our society comparable to climate change.”

The economic impact of pollinators is exemplified by the fact that native pollinators contribute an estimated \$3 billion to the United States agricultural economy annually, and honeybees alone contribute \$15 billion.^{1,2} Furthermore, other predatory and parasitic insects that provide natural pest suppression, and may be impacted by this class of pesticides, contribute to an ecological service valued at \$4.5 billions annually.³ These contributions by pollinators and other beneficial insects are too great to risk further impact through the continuation of manufacturing, sale, and distribution of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Recent studies have highlighted that this class of systemic insecticides cannot be contained to the plant itself as once thought by the agrochemical industry and EPA. A USGS study released in 2014 showed that clothianidin was detected at the highest concentration measured in 75% of stream sites tested.⁴ Furthermore, this study also noted that concentrations were higher after raining. This undeniably shows that neonicotinoids are flowing into our rivers and streams, potentially damaging a fragile ecosystem, and placing our food system at risk.

It is also extremely important to note from a human health perspective, that there are no systems in place currently to monitor the long-term human health effects of neonicotinoids, yet, neonicotinoid coated seeds are used in more than 90% of corn

¹Losey, J.E. and M. Vaughan. 2006. The economic value of ecological services provided by insects. *Bioscience*, 56(4): 311-323.

² Holdren, Dr. John P. 2015. Announcing new steps to promote pollinator health. The White House press release.

³ Brittain, C., N. Williams, C. Kremen, A.-M. Klein. 2013. Synergistic effects of non-*Apis* bees and honey bees for pollination services. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 280(1754):20122767.

⁴ United States Geological Survey. 2014. Insecticides similar to nicotine widespread in Midwest. Press release.

produced and as a seed treatment on more than 140 crops.⁵ Given this, it gives the consumer little choice in what chemicals they put into their bodies. This is concerning from not only a health perspective, but also from an individual rights perspective.

Lastly, many scientific communities have shown that these chemicals are harming our fragile ecosystems and could have dire impacts on our nation's food supply. Hundreds of peer-reviewed studies have, and continue to, show links between neonicotinoids exposure and detrimental effects on pollinators and other beneficial invertebrates. This has led some countries to enact a precautionary principle until more longitudinal, scientific data may be collected. We are simply asking Bayer CropScience to do the same and suspend their manufacturing, sale, and distribution of neonicotinoid products until there is a more full understanding of their long-term human and environmental impact.

We sincerely hope that representatives from Bayer CropScience will be able to join us at our event on September 19, 2015 so that we may begin a dialogue on how to remove these products from the market that could cause long-term human and environmental harm.

Sincerely,



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⁵ Grossman, Elizabeth (30 April 2013). "Declining Bee Populations Pose A Threat to Global Agriculture". *Yale Environment 360*. Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies.

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