



Humming for Bees

[www.hummingforbees.org](http://www.hummingforbees.org)

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March 22, 2021

To: Minnesota House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee

Subject: Support for HF 408

Dear Rep. Sundin and Committee Members,

Humming for Bees, along with our members and friends, strongly support HF408 providing more funding for pollinator research through increased fees on pollinator lethal insecticides.

In addition to honeybees used agriculturally and honeybees enjoyed by hobby beekeepers, there are also more than 400 species of native bees, plus other insects such as Monarchs, that play important roles with pollination. Honeybees are significantly important in our food production and it has been shown that native bees are supportive in effective pollination of food crops.

Starting in the mid 2000's, there began a marked increase in the use of pesticides particularly neonicotinoids commonly used in corn and soy seed coatings. Starting in this same period, commercial beekeepers began seeing increased overwintering die-offs of their honeybee colonies. The use of these insecticides has not abated and the honeybee losses continue. For the commercial beekeeping operations, keeping healthy numbers of hives is more and more difficult adding risk to their operations. Many operations have gone out of business in recent years. Risk for the commercial beekeepers is risk to our food system and effective research is a key. While the effects on honeybees from neonicotinoids is getting to be known more, more knowledge is needed for the effects on native bees and other pollinators.

It is extremely important that more research is needed to support the health of bees and pollinators leading to healthier and robust food systems. Please support and move forward HF 408.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Jeff Dinsmore



Patricia Hauser

Co-founders, Humming for Bees