

My name is Chris Cowen and I am a contract lobbyist for the Pesticide Action Network and I work with the Minnesota Environmental Partnership Pollinator Group. I am writing today to say thank you to all the House members who have been supporters of the treated seed provisions in the House version of the Agriculture Omnibus Bill; namely, Article II, Sections 9, 10 and 11.

Section 9 calls for a caution statement on neonic treated seed bags.  
Section 10 bans treated seed to be used for food, feed, oil, or ethanol feedstock and  
Section 11 deals with proper disposal of treated seed.

These provisions are well known by most everyone who has expressed an interest in the Ag Omnibus Bill. Regarding Section 10 in particular, some folks have stated that a law banning treated seed feedstock is unnecessary as the source of the concern involves just one ethanol plant that is not in the state of Minnesota. There was testimony over the concern of even the inference that Minnesota treated seed was contributing to the disaster in Mead, NE.

I think it is now safe to say that Minnesota Companies have played a more than a significant role in the destruction to the environment that is still taking place in and around the AltEn Ethanol Plant in Mead, Nebraska.

#### [According to the Nebraska Public Media:](#)

“The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy announced on Thursday six former suppliers of the AltEn ethanol plant in Mead are pledging to address ongoing pesticide contamination by the facility. The company once produced ethanol using seedcorn treated with pesticides, boasting contracts with around 100 seed companies.”

#### [According to the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy:](#)

A coalition of six seed companies has applied to the Nebraska Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) to address environmental contamination at the AltEn facility located near Mead, Nebraska. The VCP is a results-based approach to environmental cleanup that allows NDEE to review and oversee remediation efforts.

The seed companies — collectively known as the AltEn Facility Response Group — include AgReliant Genetics, LLC; Bayer U.S., LLC; Beck’s Superior Hybrids, Inc.; Corteva Agriscience, LLC; Syngenta Seeds, LLC; and WinField Solutions, LLC.

I believe that the treated seeds created by these companies are not only readily available and widely used by Minnesota corn growers, but the companies that make them have deep ties to the state:

Syngenta headquarters are in [Wayzata](#)

Bayer has a treated seed equipment facility in [Shakopee](#)

Winfield Solutions is a subsidiary of [Land 'o Lakes](#)

Beck's Superior Hybrids has a large facility in [Olivia, MN](#)

Corteva has facilities in Minnesota including a seed conditioning operation in [Olivia](#).

What went on in AltEn was nationwide, industrywide and lasted more than 5 years. What does it take to get lawmakers to make laws?

Again, thank you House Members for your support. Keep encouraging those who are against, or on the fence about, Sections 9, 10 and 11 to support these provisions to clearly eliminate by law the possibility of an AltEn from happening in any community in Minnesota. Some policy should not wait. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.