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(via email to [rep.rick.hansen@house.mn](mailto:rep.rick.hansen@house.mn) )

February 12, 2021

Minnesota Rep. Rick Hansen  
407 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Opposition to HF 408: increased fee on nonagricultural pesticide sales

Dear Rep. Hansen:

Please express our appreciation to your Legislative Assistant Mr. Adam Kopel for returning my call on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> and for giving me the opportunity to express our concerns regarding HF 408, legislation introduced on January 28<sup>th</sup>. As currently drafted, HF 408 would amend Section 18B.051 of the Minnesota Statutes 2020 by increasing the fee from 0.5% to 0.6% of the annual gross sales over \$70,000 for all nonagricultural pesticides that are pollinator lethal insecticides. "Pollinator lethal insecticides" are defined to include the neonicotinoid class of insecticides.

TWC is an international trade association, serving the treated wood industry with more than 500 member organizations, including those with fifteen headquarters and/or facilities in Minnesota [Albert Lea, Bemidji, Biwabik, Duluth(3), Eden Prairie(2), Golden Valley, New Brighton, St. Paul, Shakopee, Tenstrike, White Bear Lake and Willmar].

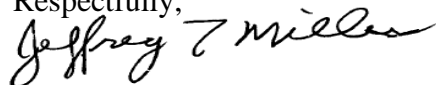
The term "neonicotinoid" includes several pesticide subgroups, such as "imidacloprid", which is used as a component in several wood preservative pesticides. TWC members use imidacloprid-containing pesticides to treat dimensional lumber (2x4's, 2x6's and others). These pesticides are only used either within a sealed steel cylinder or inside an enclosed building at secure facilities by trained technicians, and are not sold or distributed to the public. (Please see the photograph at the end.) There is no atmospheric or pollinator exposure caused by the use of these wood preservative pesticides.

We support the protection of our pollinators. However, we do not believe that it is your intention to unfairly increase the fee on imidacloprid-containing wood preservative pesticides that do not pose a lethal or any risk to pollinators.

We would like to suggest a minor addition to the text in Subdivision 2(b) of HF 408 (suggested additional language in red):

“For sales in calendar years 2021 to 2024, if the nonagricultural pesticide is a pollinator lethal insecticide as defined in section 18H.02, subdivision 28a, the registrant shall pay an additional fee equal to 0.1 percent of that portion of gross sales over \$70,000. **This provision does not apply to wood preservative pesticides.** Notwithstanding section 18B.05, the commissioner must deposit revenue from the additional 0.1 percent gross sales fee in the pollinator research account in section 18B.051.”

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share our suggestions with you. We are available to meet or confer with you on these recommendations. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,  
  
Jeffrey T. Miller  
President & Executive Director  
Treated Wood Council

cc: Mr. Peter Strohmeier, Committee Administrator ([peter.strohmeier@house.mn](mailto:peter.strohmeier@house.mn))  
Mr. Adam Kopel, Legislative Assistant ([adam.kopel@house.mn](mailto:adam.kopel@house.mn))

