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March 24, 2022

Honorable Representative Mike Sundin, chair
Members
House Agriculture Finance Policy committee
Via email Nancy.conley@house.mn

RE: HF 766: Additional seed label information required, certain seed uses prohibited, and product stewardship required for corn and soybean seed coated or treated with neonicotinoid pesticide.

Dear Honorable Chair Sundin and members of the House Agriculture Finance Policy committee,

The Legacy of Nature Alliance (LONA) brings together organizations and individuals with a unifying mission, “to ensure ecosystems are restored and preserved within the metropolitan regional parks system and throughout the entire region to provide high-quality habitat for wildlife and year-round Nature-based opportunities to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.” LONA is a regional alliance comprised of 25 organizations and numerous individuals with thousands of others on mailing and contact lists.

As you know neo-nicotinoid pesticides have been found to harm numerous unintended wildlife species including beneficial and pollinating insects, birds and mammals. Recently neo-nics have been found in deer throughout the state and neo-nics are implicated in reproductive anomalies and stillborn fawns.

Sub-lethal effects of neo-nics in birds include hypo-reactivity, lack of coordination, wing drop, immobility, disruption of migratory coordination, eggshell thinning, reduced egg hatching, impaired testicular function and low weight chicks.¹

As part of LONA’s mission to restore, protect and provide high quality wildlife habitat and year-round Nature-based opportunities and, given the significant risk of harm neo-nicotinoid pesticides pose to pollinating insects and wildlife in Minnesota, we support improving management of neo-nicotinoid treated seed and providing better labeling. We encourage passage of HF 766.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our comments.

Catherine Zimmer, Coordinator
Legacy of Nature Alliance, www.wildernessinthecity.org/legacyofnature

¹ Roy, C., et al, Sci Tot Env, Multi scale availability of neo-nicotinoid treated seed for wildlife in an agricultural landscape during spring planting, Sep 10 2019: 682:271-281.