



Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association

April 2, 2021

RE: HF 408

Minnesota is home to a variety of beneficial insects such as native bees (>400 species), wasps, butterflies, and honey bees that are crucial to the pollination of our local and regional fruits, vegetables, flowering plants and trees. One out of every three bites of food we consume is the result of pollinators doing their job.

As hobby beekeepers we are acutely aware of the importance of habitat, healthy foraging resources, and the impacts of disease and pesticides on honey bees. Scientists believe that pesticides affect honey bee health and immunity having a devastating effect and causing colony collapse. In recent years, Minnesota beekeepers have consistently reported a shocking 40-60% annual hive loss as a consequence.

We have seen a ubiquitous use of pesticides in industrial, agricultural and residential settings where they have had lethal and injurious effects on pollinators. Subsequently this has caused a drastic decline in our pollinator populations which ultimately affects the health and productivity of our environment and our own well being.

More research is needed to further examine these negative impacts of pesticides as well as to discover newer biological controls and less toxic management of unwanted pests. Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association (MHBA) strongly supports HF 408.

Sincerely,
Susan Bornstein
MHBA President
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