

January 30, 2026

**Re: Protect Colorado from Unnecessary Use of Harmful Insecticides**

Dear Chairs and Members of the Colorado Senate and House Agriculture Committees:

The undersigned businesses, organizations, and individuals urge you to pass legislation to protect Colorado from harmful and unnecessary uses of systemic insecticides, including neurotoxic neonicotinoids (“neonics”). Neonic pollution continues to worsen in Colorado, and the state must act swiftly to protect Coloradans – especially children – and our soil, water, and animals.

Systemic insecticides threaten Colorado’s wildlife and natural resources. These chemicals often persist in the environment for years and move easily into water, soil, and plants. Neonics have been [found in Colorado water](#) at 100x levels known to harm aquatic life – and at levels beyond the U.S. EPA’s worst-case estimates for groundwater contamination from neonics. Research connects neonic levels commonly found in Colorado to the collapse of fisheries, mass losses of birds, harm to pollinators, and birth defects in deer.

The loss of biodiversity from systemic insecticide pollution puts Colorado’s food security and agricultural economy at risk. [Pollinators](#) contribute to billions of dollars of Colorado agricultural production, including crops ranging from Palisade peaches and Rocky Ford cantaloupes to beans, sunflowers, and alfalfa. Even self-pollinating plants, like Pueblo green chiles, depend on Colorado’s native bees to thrive. Commercial beekeepers in Colorado lost an [average of 42%](#) of their hives from June 2024 to March 2025, and studies confirm that neonics are driving pollinator declines. In addition, neonics harm earthworms, beneficial bacteria, and other life that keeps our soils healthy and productive.

Neonic pollution also directly threatens our health. Coloradans are exposed to neonics through food, water, workplaces, and in the environment. A study of pregnant women across the U.S. found neonics in over 95% of participants. Neonic exposure during pregnancy is linked to birth defects of the heart and brain, and other developmental issues. Adult exposures are also associated with neurological and reproductive issues, including decreased testosterone and sperm count.

The good news: we can protect Colorado by eliminating the vast majority of systemic insecticide pollution, which comes from unnecessary uses. Farmers of corn, wheat, and other crops are often forced to pay for seeds that are automatically coated with neonics, even though extensive research shows this typically provides “no overall economic

benefit” to farmers. In our urban and suburban spaces, neonics are applied needlessly to turf and gardens, even when there is no real pest threat. New York, Vermont, Ontario, and Québec have already acted to curb unnecessary uses, by permitting them only where needed to address an actual pest problem. In Québec, this need-based approach has essentially eliminated the use of neonic-treated seed for major field crops. Colorado also needs to take action.

The risks of leaving systemic insecticide pollution unaddressed are playing out in real time. We urge you to join other forward-thinking leaders across the continent and reverse contamination trends by eliminating unnecessary use of systemic insecticides.

Respectfully,

#### Businesses & Organizations

Serena Chenery, Advocacy Coordinator, American Bird Conservancy

Jessica Miller, President, Aiken Audubon Society

Helen Skiba, Owner, Artemis Flower Farm

Peg Rooney, President, Audubon Colorado Council, Physician/Medical Professional

Daly Edmunds, Director of Policy & Research, Audubon Rockies

Mike Wade, Head Honcho & Heather Stone, Plant Enthusiast, Beauty Beyond Belief Wildflower Seeds (BBB Seed)

Morgan Harrington, Owner, Bee Bee Hive Collective

Beth Conrey & Jamie Erickson, Owners, Bee Squared Apiaries

Brandt Ryder, Chief Conservation Scientist, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Janine Reid, Membership Chair, Former Beekeeper, Black Canyon Audubon Society

Carol McCasland, Board of Directors - Treasurer, Boulder County Audubon Society

Don Murray, Owner, Buddha And The Bees

Charlie Peterson, Owner/Operator, Capella Ranch Bee Huts

Allison Henderson, Southern Rockies Director, Center for Biological Diversity

Jessica Goldstrohm, Owner, Colibri Creative Conservation Solutions, LLC

Lisa Boldt, Executive Director, Colorado Grain Chain

Jen Clanahan, Executive Director, Colorado Nature League

Patricia McLaughlin, Chair, Colorado Sierra Club Legislative Committee, Colorado Sierra Club

Delia Malone, Ecologist, ColoradoWild

Allison Rea, Farmer, Colorado Yardbirds

Danny Katz, Executive Director, COPIRG

Audrey Hicks, Conservation Manager & Kristen Peterska, Director of Education, Denver Audubon

Brit Pimentel, Senior Director of Operations, Denver Urban Gardens

Ryan Madson, Managing Director, Drylands Agroecology Research

Dr. Jonathan Lundgren, Executive Director, Ecdysis Foundation

Joel Newton, Board Member, Edgewater Collective

Steve Ela, Owner, Ela Family Farms

Henry Stiles, Advocate, Environment Colorado

Virginia Winter, Owner/Principal, Equinox Consultancy LLC

Emma Vasicek, Executive Director & JoAnn Hackos, Conservation Board Member, Evergreen Audubon & Nature Center

Jeannie Economos, Pesticide Safety and Environmental Health Project Coordinator, Farmworker Association of Florida

Bradley Kuhn, Owner, Finding Nectar Nursery

Liza McConnell, Board Vice President, Flatirons Farmers Coalition

Kristie Hinds, President & Chelsea Farley, Beekeeper, Four Corners Beekeepers Association

Oliver Aurand, Owner, Friends Farm

Jason Davidson, Senior Food and Agriculture Campaigner, Friends of the Earth

Laura Poss, Farmer, Beekeeper, Mother, Grains From the Plains

Ean Tafoya, Vice President of State Programs, GreenLatinos

Barbara Masoner, Co-director, Grow Local Colorado

Lauren Kelso, Site Director, Growing Gardens of Boulder County

Sara Carpenter, MD, Chair, Board of Directors, Healthy Air and Water Colorado

Cory Kreft, Owner Pres, Hidden Hive

Mary Ellen Montgomery, Owner Operator, High and Dry Xeriscapes

Christo Luna, Deputy State Director, Mi Familia Vota

Heather Morton Burtness, Owner, Morton's Organic Orchards

Laura Fessenden, Director of Operations, Moxie Bread Co.

Allison Johnson, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council

Tom Schultz, Conservation Chair, Northern Colorado Bird Alliance

Mark & Kena Guttridge, Owners, Ollin Farms

Chandra Rosenthal, Public Lands Advocate and Rocky Mountain Director, PEER

Joyce Kennedy, Executive Director, People & Pollinators Action Network

Becky Elder, Executive Director, Pikes Peak Permaculture

Julia Mahood, Secretary, Pollinator Stewardship Council

Clariss Mancebo, Policy & Development Associate, Re:wild Your Campus

Jared Kerst, President, Rivendell Farms, Inc.

Dan Perez, Director, Rio Grande Farm Park, SLV Local Foods Coalition

Gregg McMahan, Owner, Rocky Mountain Bee

Janell Togno, Roaring Fork Audubon

Brad Christensen, Distiller, Routt Distillery

Gary Skiba, Wildlife Program Manager, San Juan Citizens Alliance

Scott Waterhouse, Founder, Scott's Bees Pollinator Project

Jodie Popma, Board Chair, Slow Food Boulder County

Lilly Steirer, Executive Director, Slow Food Denver

Jim Brett, Leader, Slow Food Western Slope

Vanita Patel, Co-Founder, Switch Gears Farm

Liz Napp, Executive Director, Sunflower Farm

Mike Pach, Photographer, 3 Peaks Photography & Design

Liza McConnell, Farmer, The Chicken Project

Mark Waltermire, Owner, Thistle Whistle Farm

Mark Waltermire, President, Valley Organic Growers Association

Jean Zirnhelt, Board President, Weminuche Audubon Society

Delaney Rudy, Colorado Director, Western Watersheds Project

Danna Liebert, Wild Ones Front Range Board of Directors, Wild Ones Front Range Chapter

Rosemary Malfi, Policy Director, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

### Individuals

Adam Auerbach, Environmental Advocate

Adrienne Cunningham, Avian Ecologist, Scientist, Environmental Advocate

Angela Dwyer, Scientist, Parent, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

Angie Mestas, Scientist, Health Advocate

Anissa Hacker, Scientist & Plant Enthusiast

Dr. Anne Wilson, Parent, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

Annie Brown, VP of Development, Rodale Institute, Environmental Advocate

Ashley Stolzmann, Boulder County Commissioner, Chemical Engineer

Barbara Noblin, Environmental Advocate

Bev Baker, Environmental Advocate

Bonnie Crissey

Bret Turner, Master of Public Health

Bridget Gilmore, Market Development Manager, Rodale Institute

Cathern Smith, Environmental Advocate

Christina Leas, Environmental Advocate

Daniel Duggan, Renewables Engineer

Dave Welch, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

David Hallock, Environmental Advocate

David Sandahl, Ecologist, Farmer, Scientist, Beekeeper, Environmental Advocate

Devyn Palm-Trujillo, Ecological Gardener, Local Government, Environmental Advocate

Donna Sichko, Parent, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate, Wildlife Advocate

Dru Spinuzzi, Beekeeper

Eric Jensen, Research Scientist, Parent, Environmental Advocate

Eric Smith, Environmental Advocate

Erin Knox, Physician/Medical Professional, Parent, Environmental Advocate

Emily Gallichotte, Research Scientist, Environmental Advocate

George Bracksieck, Parent

Georgia Briscoe, Parent, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

Greg DiFiore, Parent, Environmental Advocate

Helene Gallaway, Volunteer - Manitou Springs Climate Action Working Group, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

Huberta Yaron, Scientist, Beekeeper, Parent, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

Jacy Bernath-Plaisted, Scientist

Jay Berger, Concerned Citizen, Environmental Advocate

Jennifer Cornell, Beekeeper, Environmental Advocate, Gardener, Outdoor Enthusiast

Jessie Velander, Wildlife Ecologist, Parent

Jim McGannon, Forestry/Landscape Consultant, LLC

Jo Anne Peterson, Physician/Medical Professional, Parent, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate, Member of Audubon Society

John Malenich, Scientist, Environmental Advocate

Kali Janda, Mayor Pro Tem, Edgewater City Council, Parent

Kathy Briggs, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

Dr. Karl Ford, Environmental Advocate

Kathleen Sullivan, Bird Conservationist

Dr. KD Leka, Scientist, Parent, Environmental Advocate, Mother-Earth Advocate

Keith Bruno, Community Naturalist, Audubon Rockies, Farmer, Scientist, Parent, Environmental Advocate

Kevin Kwok, PharmD, Parkinson's Disease Patient Advocate, Scientist, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

Kit Basom, Environmental Advocate

Kristen Wolslegel, Environmental Justice Ministry Leader, Environmental Advocate

Linda Andes-Georges, Environmental Advocate

Linda Hodges, Environmental Advocate

Lisa Crocette, Beekeeper

Leslie Siron, Parent, Environmental Advocate

Lynn Merrill, Environmental Advocate

Madison Sankovitz, Postdoctoral Associate

Margaret LeCompte, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado-Boulder, Environmental Advocate

Marina Skumanich, Scientist, Environmental Advocate

Margaret Wolf, Scientist, Environmental Advocate

Martha Dick, Environmental Advocate

Mary Smith, Environmental Advocate Miki Laws, Environmental Advocate

Melissa Marts, Bird Lover, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate

Miki Laws, Environmental Advocate

Nicholas Stanfaord, Scientist

Dr. Nikita Habermehl, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician

NL Grimes, Environmental Advocate

Noelle Nicholson, Naturalist and Cancer Patient

Olivia Laws, Wildlife Habitat Biologist

Padma Krishnan, Parent

Polly Reet, Volunteer, Scientist, Parent, Environmental Advocate

Dr. Richard Pritzlaff, Scientist & Parent

Roger Walker, Broker Associate, Environmental Advocate

Ruth Carol Cushman, Environmental Advocate



Ryan Schuchard, City Councilmember, Boulder, Colorado

Sheehan Meagher, Beekeeper, Environmental Advocate

Suzanne Bhatt, Volunteer Naturalist, Environmental Advocate

Taylor Dziedzina, Scientist, Environmental Advocate

Dr. Thomas Veblen, Scientist

Vicki Scharnhorst, Environmental Advocate

William Rivers, Health Advocate, Environmental Advocate