

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2692

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take certain actions related to pesticides that may affect pollinators, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2013

Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take certain actions related to pesticides that may affect pollinators, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Saving America’s Polli-  
5 nators Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 (1) Pollination services are a vital part of agri-  
8 cultural production, valued at over  
9 \$125,000,000,000 globally and worth

1       \$20,000,000,000 to \$30,000,000,000 in agricultural  
2       production annually in the United States.

3           (2) One-third of food produced in North Amer-  
4       ica depends on pollination by honey bees, including  
5       nearly 95 varieties of fruits such as almonds, avoca-  
6       dos, cranberries, and apples.

7           (3) Over the past several years, documented in-  
8       cidents of colony collapse disorder have been at a  
9       record high, with some beekeepers repeatedly losing  
10      100 percent of their operations.

11          (4) During the winter beginning in 2012 and  
12      ending in 2013, United States beekeepers, on aver-  
13      age, lost 45.1 percent of the colonies they operate.

14          (5) According to scientists of the Department  
15      of Agriculture, current estimates of the survivorship  
16      of honey bee colonies show they are too low to be  
17      able to meet the pollination demands of United  
18      States agricultural crops.

19          (6) Scientists have linked the use of systemic  
20      neonicotinoid insecticides to the rapid decline of pol-  
21      linators and to the deterioration of pollinator health.

22          (7) Neonicotinoids cause sublethal effects in-  
23      cluding impaired foraging and feeding behavior, dis-  
24      orientation, weakened immunity, delayed larval de-  
25      velopment, and increased susceptibility to viruses,

1 diseases, and parasites and numerous studies have  
2 also demonstrated acute, lethal effects from the ap-  
3 plication of neonicotinoid insecticides.

4 (8) Recent science has demonstrated that a sin-  
5 gle corn kernel coated with a neonicotinoid is toxic  
6 enough to kill a songbird.

7 (9) In June 2013, over 50,000 bumblebees were  
8 killed as a direct result of exposure to a  
9 neonicotinoid applied to Linden trees for cosmetic  
10 purposes.

11 (10) In January 2013, the European Food  
12 Safety Authority determined that the most widely  
13 used neonicotinoids pose unacceptable hazards to  
14 bees, prompting the European Union to suspend  
15 their use on agricultural crops.

16 **SEC. 3. URGENT REGULATORY RESPONSE FOR HONEY BEE**  
17 **AND POLLINATOR PROTECTION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of  
20 the Environmental Protection Agency shall suspend the  
21 registration of imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam,  
22 dinotafuran, and any other members of the nitro group  
23 of neonicotinoid insecticides to the extent such insecticide  
24 is registered, conditionally or otherwise, under the Federal  
25 Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136

1 et seq.) for use in seed treatment, soil application, or foliar  
2 treatment on bee attractive plants, trees, and cereals until  
3 the Administrator has made a determination that such in-  
4 secticide will not cause unreasonable adverse effects on  
5 pollinators based on—

6 (1) an evaluation of the published and peer-re-  
7 viewed scientific evidence on whether the use or uses  
8 of such neonicotinoids cause unreasonable adverse  
9 effects on pollinators, including native bees, honey  
10 bees, birds, bats, and other species of beneficial in-  
11 sects; and

12 (2) a completed field study that meets the cri-  
13 teria required by the Administrator and evaluates  
14 residues, including residue build-up after repeated  
15 annual application, chronic low-dose exposure, cumu-  
16 lative effects of multiple chemical exposures, and any  
17 other protocol determined to be necessary by the Ad-  
18 ministrator to protect managed and native polli-  
19 nators.

20 (b) CONDITIONS ON CERTAIN PESTICIDES REG-  
21 ISTRATIONS.—Notwithstanding section 3 of the Federal  
22 Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C.  
23 136a), for purposes of the protection of honey bees, other  
24 pollinators, and beneficial insects, the Administrator of  
25 the Environmental Protection Agency shall not issue any

1 new registrations, conditional or otherwise, for any seed  
2 treatment, soil application, and foliar treatment on bee at-  
3 tractive plants, trees, and cereals under such Act until the  
4 Administrator has made the determination described in  
5 subsection (a), based on an evaluation described in sub-  
6 section (a)(1) and a completed field study described in  
7 subsection (a)(2), with respect to such insecticide.

8       (c) MONITORING OF NATIVE BEES.—The Secretary  
9 of the Interior, in coordination with the Administrator of  
10 the Environmental Protection Agency, shall, for purposes  
11 of protecting and ensuring the long-term viability of native  
12 bees and other pollinators of agricultural crops, horti-  
13 cultural plants, wild plants, and other plants—

14           (1) regularly monitor the health and population  
15 status of native bees, including the status of native  
16 bees in agricultural and non-agricultural habitats  
17 and areas of ornamental plants, residential areas,  
18 and landscaped areas;

19           (2) identify the scope and likely causes of un-  
20 usual native bee mortality; and

21           (3) beginning not later than 180 days after the  
22 date of the enactment of this Act and each year  
23 thereafter, submit to Congress, and make available

- 1 to the public, a report on such health and population
- 2 status.

