

44th LD Resolution 1704A

Resolution Ending the Use of Pollinator-Killing Chemicals

WHEREAS a growing body of science implicates pesticides called neonicotinoids and also the herbicide glyphosate--made by giant chemical companies Bayer, Syngenta and Monsanto--as key factors in pollinator decline; and

WHEREAS glyphosate (a.k.a. Monsanto's Roundup®) is the most widely used herbicide in the world; and

WHEREAS in the United States, glyphosate is wiping out milkweed, which monarch butterflies rely on as the only food for their young; and

WHEREAS use of glyphosate has increased dramatically in the past two decades since Monsanto launched its genetically engineered Roundup®-Ready corn, soy, canola and cotton; and

WHEREAS neonicotinoids are one of the most widely used classes of insecticides, and

WHEREAS glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide; and

WHEREAS a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that neonicotinoids contaminate the pollen and nectar that is gathered by pollinators, and

WHEREAS studies have shown that neonicotinoids are endangering pollinators, and

WHEREAS the loss of pollinators is alarmingly high, with commercial honeybee colonies experiencing as much as 50 percent over-winter losses each year since 2006, and with a dramatic decline in populations of wild bees, butterflies, birds and other pollinators, as well as invertebrates in soil and water systems, and

WHEREAS municipal, residential and commercial use of neonicotinoid , other systemic pesticides and herbicides on home gardens, public parks, school grounds and other local and municipal areas pose unacceptable risks these populations, and

WHEREAS agriculture is among the largest sectors of the economy of the State of Washington, accounting for over 49 billion dollars in total revenue and 13 percent of the state's economy, and

WHEREAS the US Environmental Protection Agency has allowed registration, sale and use of neonicotinoids while it carries out an assessment, and is not scheduled to issue its report until 2018, and

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WHEREAS this same municipal, residential and commercial use of neonicotinoid and other systemic pesticides and herbicides on home gardens, public parks, school grounds and other local and municipal areas may pose health risks to human residents, and

WHEREAS the use of hazardous and persistent pesticides, including systemic neonicotinoids, and herbicides, such as, glyphosate is not necessary to create and maintain green lawns and landscapes, home and public gardens and open spaces, given the availability of viable alternative practices and products, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that We, The 44th Legislative District Democrats, recognize the critical importance of pollinators to our food supply and to our environment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That We support adding glyphosate to a list of possible carcinogens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That We support the labeling of glyphosate (a.k.a. Monsanto's Roundup®) as a carcinogen; therefore, requiring a cancer warning label on all containers containing glyphosate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that We support a national and state moratorium on the sale and use of neonicotinoids for any purpose with exceptions only being allowed under a rigorous and transparent exemption process for the application of neonicotinoids for the purposes of (1) a well-defined research study; or (2) when the life or health of a valuable or significant plant is threatened and neonicotinoid application is the least environmentally impactful option, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that We transmit copies of this resolution to the Washington State Legislative Delegation, the Washington State Executive, and our Federal Congressional Delegation for their consideration, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that We strongly urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to suspend the registration of imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotafuran, organophosphates, carbamates, pyrethroids 2,4-D, dicamba and any other neonicotinoids until the EPA can complete its environmental assessments, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that We strongly urge the White House Task Force on Pollinator Health to recommend or institute an immediate moratorium on all uses of neonicotinoids.