

From: Scott [

Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 3:11 PM

To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; representative.justin.parrish@akleg.gov; Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Representative.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dean Westlake <Rep.Dean.Westlake@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 19

I am a beekeeper in south-central Alaska and I urge you to support HB19 banning the use of Neonicotinoids in Alaska. I have inspected many honey bee hives in this area and have seen first hand how stress impacts bee colonies. Recent studies have shown loss of many species of bees in the lower 48. Even less is known about Alaska's native pollinators. Neonicotinoids are well documented to stress pollinators, adding to their vulnerability to bacteria, parasites and viruses. Many of our native pollinators such as bumblebees, nest and hibernate underground, making them susceptible to pesticide accumulation in the soil. I strongly support HB 19 and wish more states would follow our example.

Sincerely,

Scott Lawrence

From: Linda Gorman
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:28 AM
To: House Resources <lhsres@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 19 letter of support to ban neonics in Alasak

March 15, 2017

House Resource Committee

RE: HB 19 – Ban Neonics in Alaska

I am a beekeeper in Homer Alaska and I am writing to you today to urge the committee to pass this bill. We mainly think of honeybees in the lower 48 as pollinators, with over 1 million colonies used to pollinate just the California Almond Crops.

We are all aware of the Colony Collapse Disorder of the honeybee. The decline of the pollinators has been linked to the use of neonicotinoids, not only in this country but in Europe. France is in the process of banning all use of these chemicals. Alaska is a clean state, with pockets of agriculture and to think of a farm or nursery using a chemical that is a known killer to bees and other pollinators, is a horrific idea.

In April, Alaska comes alive with over 25 million honeybees imported from the lower 48 or Canada. They are distributed all over the state. We beekeepers do all we can to support the health of our bees. If Alaska was to allow the use of these chemicals, and there are many, the bee would become disoriented, loose the way back to the hive and die.

We as humans cannot afford to lose our bees. Alaska can lead the cause by banning this pesticide.

Thank you for consideration,

Linda Gorman

Homer, AK 99603