

**RESOLUTION NO. M-1811**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, CONCERNING THE USE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES BY THE CITY OF OLYMPIA; SUPPORTING A NATIONAL MORATORIUM ON NEONICOTINIDS, URGING THE WHITE HOUSE TASK FORCE ON POLLINATOR HEALTH TO RECOMMEND SUCH A MORATORIUM, URGING THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO INSTITUTE SUCH A MORATORIUM, AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REVIVE LEGISLATION TO ENACT SUCH A MORATORIUM; AND URGING RETAILERS OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY OF OLYMPIA TO ENSURE THAT NO PLANTS, SEEDS OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING NEONICOTINIDS ARE OFFERED FOR SALE.**

WHEREAS, bees and other insect pollinators are under great environmental stress, experiencing die-offs and diminishing populations, and putting major sectors of agriculture and food security at risk; and

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

WHEREAS, pollinators are critical to key Washington crops, such as tree fruit; over one-third of all agricultural production worldwide is dependent on pollinators; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey has highlighted the growing use of neonicotinoids in the United States, and found significant neonicotinoid contamination in our nation's waters; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids, one of the most widely used classes of insecticides in the world, are systemic, persistent neurotoxins that spread throughout a treated plant including to the pollen that is gathered by pollinators; and

WHEREAS, an independent review of more than 800 scientific studies concluded that neonicotinoids are causing significant damage to a wide range of beneficial invertebrate species and are a key factor in the decline of bees; and

WHEREAS, responding to scientific concern over the impact of neonicotinoids on pollinators, the European Union in 2013 instituted a two-year moratorium on use of neonicotinoids, while cities, including Spokane, Washington, Seattle, Washington, Eugene, Oregon, and Sherwood, Minnesota, have instituted bans against municipal use of neonicotinoids; and

WHEREAS, U.S. House of Representatives Bill 2692, the "Save America's Pollinators Act" of 2013, is currently pending in committee; and

WHEREAS, in August 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced plans to phase out use of neonicotinoids on National Wildlife Refuges across the country, and the U.S. Geological Survey released information on the pervasive appearance of neonicotinoids in aquatic environments throughout the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, in July 2014, President Obama directed the White House Task Force on Pollinator Health to publish within 180 days a strategy to stop the decline of pollinators and help restore populations to healthy levels; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. 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;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The City of Olympia will continue its policy of not purchasing or using any neonicotinoid pesticides for any purpose and will seek to use only pollinator-friendly methods of weed and pest control on any City-owned or operated land.

**Section 2.** The Olympia City Council supports a national moratorium on the sale and use of neonicotinoids.

**Section 3.** The Olympia City Council urges the citizens of the City of Olympia and Thurston County to learn about the pervasive and persistent nature of neonicotinoid insecticides, including the potential for commercial plant stock to carry active and long lasting neurotoxins in plant tissues and soils, and to stop using these chemicals, whether in the form of insecticidal applications or through plants, seeds, or other products.

**Section 4.** The Olympia City Council urges the citizens of the City of Olympia and Thurston County to plant trees, shrubs, and plants that attract bees and other insect pollinators.

**Section 5.** The Olympia City Council strongly urges the U.S. House of Representatives to pass the Save America's Pollinators Act (H.R. 2692).

**Section 6.** The Olympia City Council strongly urges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to suspend the registration of imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotafuran and any other neonicotinoids until the EPA can complete its environmental assessments.

**Section 7.** The Olympia City Council strongly urges the White House Task Force on Pollinator Health to recommend or institute an immediate moratorium on all uses of neonicotinoids.

**Section 8.** The Olympia City Council strongly urges businesses operating within the City of Olympia to take immediate steps to ensure no plants, seeds, or products containing neonicotinoids are purchased, sold, or used within the City of Olympia.

**Section 9.** The Olympia City Council urges the Thurston County Board of Health to establish best practice methods for reducing and eliminating neurotoxin pesticides from the environment, and proactively engage with commercial retailers and professional associations to educate the public about how to protect and enhance bee populations including native pollinators.


**PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2014.

  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
CITY ATTORNEY