



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

November 17, 2023

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Michael S. Regan, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Attention: Susan Bartow, Chemical Review Manager
Pesticide Reevaluation Division
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

**RE: Proposed Rulemaking on Use of Pesticide Treated Seed and Paint
(Docket ID # EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0420)**

Bob Ciolek

Dear Administrator Regan:

Tom Cohn

John Cumbler

Jamie Demas

Joshua Goldberg

Meredith Harris

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) submits the following comments for the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rulemaking on the use of pesticide-treated seed and paint (Docket ID # EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0420). We urge the EPA to adopt new rules that will strengthen protections for the environment from adverse impacts associated with pesticide-treated seed products.

DeeDee Holt

Pat Hughes

Molly Karlson

Eliza McClennen

Established in 1968, APCC is the Cape Cod, Massachusetts region's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, working for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect and enhance Cape Cod's natural resources and quality of life.

Wendy Northcross

Rick O'Connor

In its consideration of new rules for pesticide-treated crop seeds, the EPA should adopt restrictions on treated seed use to protect waterways and fisheries and to also protect critically important pollinator species.

Kris Ramsay

Dottie Smith

Charles Sumner

Neonicotinoids, a pesticide commonly used to treat crop seeds, are known to be very harmful to aquatic invertebrates that many fish species depend on as food sources. The water-soluble nature of neonicotinoids allows some of the pesticide to wash off the planted seeds, which can contaminate nearby water bodies. Research conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey in Midwestern U.S. farming regions has

documented the presence of neonicotinoids in rivers and streams at levels high enough to threaten beneficial aquatic invertebrates. One action the EPA should take is to require labeling on treated seed products that specify treated seeds must not be planted in areas where they can impact surface waters, including areas susceptible to flooding.

Neonicotinoids are particularly toxic to bees and other valuable pollinator species. Multiple studies have confirmed that planting seeds coated with insecticides has had a devastating effect on both domesticated and native pollinator bees around farmlands. Toxic dust from treated seeds, released during planting, can settle on bees and the flowers they feed on. Soils, within the fields planted with treated seeds as well as on land adjacent to the treated fields, can become contaminated with pesticides and harm ground-nesting crop pollinators.

APCC would like to see the use of harmful neonicotinoids discontinued, but at a minimum, the sale, use, and safe disposal of seeds treated with neonicotinoids as well as other systemic insecticides and fungicides should be regulated, tracked and reported at the federal level. Unlike current labeling, treated seed packaging should be explicitly labeled so that farmers understand what pesticides are on the seeds they are planting and what the risks are in using such products. It is estimated that, conservatively, approximately 150 million acres of farmland across the U.S. are planted with pesticide-coated seeds. Better labeling and education could go a long way in helping to reduce unnecessary and improper use of pesticide-treated seeds, and federal tracking of these products can help us better understand the consequences of their use.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Gottlieb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director