



TOWN OF FAIRFAX
STAFF REPORT
September 4, 2013

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution 13-47 in support of HR 2692: *Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013*

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the attached resolution.

DISCUSSION

The above resolution was agendized by Mayor Reed for consideration and adoption by Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution 13-47

RESOLUTION NO. 13-47

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2692 SAVING AMERICA'S POLLINATORS ACT OF 2013

WHEREAS, Pollination services are a vital part of agricultural production, valued at over \$125,000,000,000 globally and worth \$20,000,000,000 to \$30,000,000,000 in agricultural production annually in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, One-third of food produced in North America depends on pollination by honey bees, including nearly 95 varieties of fruits such as almonds, avocados, cranberries, and apples; and,

WHEREAS, Over the past several years, documents of incidents of colony collapse disorder have been at a record high, with some beekeepers repeatedly losing 100 percent of their operations; and,

WHEREAS, During the winter beginning in 2012 and ending in 2013, United States beekeepers, on average, lost 45.1 percent of the colonies they operate; and,

WHEREAS, According to scientists of the Department of Agriculture, current estimates of the survivorship of honey bee colonies show that they are too low to be able to meet the pollination demands of United States agricultural crops; and,

WHEREAS, Scientists have linked the use of systemic neonicotinoid insecticides to the rapid decline of pollinators and to the deterioration of pollinator health; and,

WHEREAS, Neonicotinoids cause sublethal effects including impaired foraging and feeding behavior, disorientation, weakened immunity, delayed larval development, and increased susceptibility to viruses, diseases, and parasites and numerous studies have also demonstrated acute, lethal effects from the application of neonicotinoid insecticides; and,

WHEREAS, Recent science has demonstrated that a single corn kernel coated with a neonicotinoid is toxic enough to kill a songbird; and,

WHEREAS, In June 2013, over 50,000 bumblebees were killed as a direct result of exposure to a neonicotinoid applied to Linden trees for cosmetic purposes ; and,

WHEREAS , In January 2013, the European Food Safety Authority determined that the most widely used neonicotinoids pose unacceptable hazards to bees, prompting the European Union to suspend their use on agricultural crops; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX
DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

We call upon our Congressional representatives to support the Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013; and request that a copy of this resolution be sent to Congressman Huffman and Senators Feinstein and Boxer.

The foregoing Resolution was duly introduced and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said town on the 4th day of September 2013 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

JOHN REED, MAYOR

Attest:

Town Clerk