Collier Soil and Water Conservation District **Dennis P. Vasey, Chairman**

14700 Immokalee Road
Naples, FL 34120

April 19, 2015

Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Gina McCarthy, Administrator
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Mail Code 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Madam Administrator,

We call on you to close the knowledge gaps concerning the impacts of neonicotinoids on bees. Current research momentum, and recent rapid increases in the number of studies being published on this topic, provide opportunities for a more comprehensive understanding of how neonicotinoids are affecting bees.

Your agency has acknowledged that a number of these neonics are "highly toxic" to bees. Yet the Environmental Protection Agency has not announced review results of the mounting scientific evidence that implicates these systemic pesticides as a key culprit behind the alarming collapse of bee colonies. If our understanding is incorrect, please provide relevant information.

Both managed and wild bees are subject to multiple, interacting environmental pressures. Bees in modern agricultural landscapes are typically exposed to several classes of pesticides, creating opportunities for multiple combined effects of pesticide exposure. We respectfully request new research to both disentangle how important neonicotinoid use is relative to other potential drivers of bee declines, as well as determine the identity and magnitude of interactive effects among these drivers in the field.

Respectfully,

/s/

Dennis P. Vasey

Attachment:
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