

Dear Jennifer,

Please accept these 2,748 public comments from California members and online activists of Friends of the Earth calling on DPR to close the loophole that prevents pesticide-treated seeds from being regulated as pesticides and to curb the use of seeds treated with neonicotinoid pesticides, one of the largest insecticide uses in the state.

Thank you,

Kendra

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 **Friends of the Earth U.S.**

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To the California Department of Pesticide Regulation,

As a California resident, I'm calling on you to close the loophole that prevents pesticide-treated seeds from being regulated as pesticides.

Neonic coatings on seeds represent one of the largest uses of insecticides in the state. The fact that these toxic seeds aren't considered "pesticides" under state law is an abdication of responsibility that threatens us all.

When seeds are treated with neonics, the pesticides are absorbed by plants, making the entire plant — its roots, leaves, fruit, and pollen — toxic to pollinators. The pesticides coating these seeds also leach into soil and water supplies, harming aquatic wildlife like fish and frogs.

By harming pollinators that are critical to our agricultural systems, neonic-coated seeds endanger the future of our food supply. A decline in the population of pollinators can result in increased food costs, which can lead to reduced access to healthy food and worsening food insecurity — crises that will hit low-income communities and communities of color especially hard.

Neonics are also routinely found in public water supplies, where they pose a health risk to people. Research shows that neonic exposures may lead to elevated risks of developmental or neurological damage and other health complications — especially in pregnant women and children.

Act now to regulate pesticide-treated seeds to protect California's pollinators, wildlife, food supply, and communities.

Sincerely,