

I am writing to call for the urgent and immediate passage of the Save America's Pollinators Act of 2013.

This last winter 45 percent of all honeybee colonies in the U.S. died off. The norm before 2005 was a 5-10% loss, but then the numbers shot up dramatically to 30% a year or more. Without honeybees there would be no fruits, no nuts and the loss of many vegetables.

The European Union recently put a ban in place on the new neonicotinoid pesticides, the introduction of which strongly correlates to these honeybee deaths. These chemical poisons were never actually field tested before being released into the environment, and were deployed under a conditional registration loophole. What makes them so insidious is that they are systemic in the plants, they are literally in the nectar on which the bees feed, which the bees then concentrate.

This last season it took 60% of all functional honeybees in the country just to pollinate California's almond crop alone. One more yearly loss like this last year, which is now the EXPECTED new norm, and there will be a catastrophic collapse of our food supply this very next year. Indeed, the damage for next year has already been done by the long enduring neonicotinoids already out there.

Our honeybees are dropping literally like flies. It would be nice if our own Congress might one time have the foresight to implement good public policy, without lurching from one monumental catastrophe to the next. This literally may be our last chance to save our food supply.