



# Friends of Minnesota Scientific & Natural Areas

March 1, 2021

Representative Rick Hansen, Chair  
House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee  
Via e-mail only: [Peter.Strohmeier@house.mn](mailto:Peter.Strohmeier@house.mn)

**Re: Support of HF 1210 – A Bill to Ban Neonicotinoid Insecticides on State Land**  
Hearing Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021; 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Hansen and Committee Members:

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas (FMSNA) is a Minnesota non-profit, tax-exempt [“501(c)(3)”] corporation organized to protect and enhance Minnesota’s Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs).

These 160+ SNAs are the crown jewels of Minnesota’s state land base, protecting some of Minnesota’s rarest and most sensitive plant and animal species and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

HF 1210, as introduced, would prohibit neonicotinoid insecticides in state wildlife management areas only. It is our understanding that this bill will be amended on March 2nd to add scientific and natural areas, state parks, state forests, and state aquatic management areas to the list of state lands upon which the use of neonicotinoid insecticides will be prohibited.

Our organization **fully supports HF 1210 and its amendments** that would include SNAs and other state lands. SNAs are often contiguous with other state land classifications, constituting an ecological unit. Insecticides, such as neonicotinoids, used off the SNAs can have adverse impacts on natural resources within the SNAs.

As an example of neonicotinoid insecticides, “... the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has determined that the **neonicotinoid insecticides** clothianidin and imidacloprid are ‘**surface water pesticides of concern**’ in accordance with the state Pesticide Management Plan (PMP).” [Minn. State Register, December 7, 2020, page 557. Emphasis added.]

Public education efforts to discourage the use of neonicotinoid insecticides have failed to result in meaningful change. Although educational efforts to increase public awareness remain

important, **legislation**, such as HF 1210, **is required to adequately address neonicotinoid insecticide pollution**.

Thank you for all of your excellent work to protect Minnesota's natural resources – and for **your vote in favor of HF 1210, as amended**.

Very truly yours,

*Thomas E. Casey*

Thomas E. Casey  
Board Chair  
Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas, Inc

Please send correspondence to:

2854 Cambridge Lane  
Mound, MN 55364  
telephone: (952) 472-1099  
e-mail: [tcasey@frontiernet.net](mailto:tcasey@frontiernet.net)

cc: Representative Rick Hansen, via e-mail: [rep.rick.hansen@house.mn](mailto:rep.rick.hansen@house.mn)