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The beekeeping industry is facing a critical moment that requires immediate attention and unified action. Across the country, pesticide manufacturers and their trade associations are advancing legislation designed to grant chemical companies sweeping immunity from liability for the harms caused by their products. These efforts are unfolding simultaneously at federal and state levels— and represent one of the most significant policy threats the beekeeping industry has ever faced.

At the federal level, provisions within the proposed Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (“Farm Bill” H.R. 7567), reported out of the House Agriculture Committee, would release pesticide manufacturers from their current responsibility to label products with warnings that may exceed the most minimum disclosures required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In practical terms, this would block failure-to-warn lawsuits against pesticide manufacturers by those who have been harmed, shielding chemical companies from accountability even when their products cause harm. This provision applies to all pesticides registered under FIFRA, and would affect more than 57,000 pesticide products used across American agriculture.

At the same time, the U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether pesticide manufacturers can rely on federal registration to shield themselves from liability under state law. The outcome of this litigation could fundamentally reshape accountability for pesticide-related harm nationwide.

These efforts are not isolated. Similar legislation limiting pesticide company liability has already been introduced in multiple states in 2025-2026, reflecting a coordinated lobbying strategy by the chemical industry to eliminate legal accountability nationwide. The objective is clear: to protect pesticide manufacturers from responsibility for the damage their products cause.

For beekeepers, the consequences of such policies are profound..

Across the United States, beekeepers are experiencing unprecedented colony losses. National survey data from the Bee Informed Partnership indicate that beekeepers lost more than 50 percent of managed honey bee colonies in a single year, placing extraordinary strain on an industry that is essential to U.S. agriculture and food production (Bee Informed Partnership, *National Colony Loss and Management Survey*).

These losses are occurring in an agricultural landscape where pesticide exposure is widespread. Systemic insecticides such as neonicotinoids permeate soil, water, pollen, nectar, and plant tissues, creating multiple pathways of exposure for pollinators. As a result, pollinators are exposed through multiple pathways: treated seeds, contaminated surface and groundwater, flowering crops, non-crop vegetation, and plant exudates across millions of acres of farmland (U.S. EPA; U.S. Geological Survey; peer-reviewed literature).

For beekeepers, these losses are not abstract statistics. They translate into real economic damage: replacing colonies, rebuilding weakened operations, losing pollination contracts, and absorbing the costs of repeated annual losses. Many commercial beekeeping operations are being pushed to the edge of economic viability. Yet while beekeepers absorb these costs, pesticide manufacturers are now attempting to remove one of the few mechanisms that exists to hold them accountable.

This raises a fundamental question for the beekeeping community: If chemical manufacturers are granted immunity from liability, who will bear the cost of the damage their products cause?

The answer is clear. The burden will fall on beekeepers, farmers, and rural communities.

We have seen this playbook before. The tobacco industry once argued that it should be immune from responsibility for the harms caused by its products, and that effort failed. Courts and policymakers recognized that manufacturers cannot profit from harmful products while escaping accountability for the damage they cause. The pushback against tobacco industry immunity became a turning point—exposing industry conduct and driving change that has greatly reduced tobacco's public health impact. Removing liability for pesticide manufacturers would undermine a key mechanism to ensure accountability in protecting bees and humans from pesticide harm.

For the beekeeping industry, this moment demands unity.

Beekeepers come from many different backgrounds—commercial beekeepers, sideliners, hobbyists, honey producers, researchers, and pollinator advocates. We operate in different regions and face different local challenges. But on the question of pesticide immunity, our interests are aligned. Granting immunity to pesticide manufacturers would shift the financial and ecological costs of pesticide harm directly onto the beekeeping community while protecting the companies that produce and profit from these chemicals.

This is not just a legal issue. It is a fundamental issue for the future of beekeeping. Pollinators do not belong to one political party, and neither does the responsibility to protect the systems

that sustain our food supply. Some beekeepers hesitate to speak out, concerned that raising these issues could jeopardize contracts or relationships with growers. But silence will not protect our industry. When we stand together, we have the strength to speak clearly about policies that threaten pollinators and the future of beekeeping. If the industry remains divided or silent, decisions made in the coming months could reshape the legal and regulatory landscape for decades.

While this letter focuses on the health of pollinators, the implications reach far beyond bees. If the chemical industry succeeds in securing immunity from liability, the consequences extend to people as well. It will remove critical legal protections that currently allow people to hold chemical companies accountable when their products cause harm to human health.

Now is the time for beekeepers and beekeeping organizations across the country to stand together. We must raise awareness within our communities, communicate with policymakers, engage with agricultural partners, and ensure that the voices of beekeepers are heard clearly and collectively. We must respond together.

The future of pollinators—and the future of the beekeeping industry—depends on it.

Sincerely,



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