

## There's no need for neonicotinoid ban

*Waterloo Region Record*

Ban neonicotinoid pesticides as a precaution — Nov. 8

The Sierra Club of Canada is cherry-picking information that suits its viewpoint and relying on mistruths and emotions to try and have a neonicotinoid ban imposed on Ontario farmers.

Meanwhile, activist groups like this are also suing the Minister of Health and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, asking for a ban on 29 pesticides critical to food production. These activist groups are behaving recklessly in their quest to ban essential tools from farmers and, if successful, would cripple agricultural production in Canada.

Anyone who truly cares about honey bee health knows there are a whole host of factors that can and do pose a risk to these important insects. Varroa mites, disease and weather can all have devastating impacts on honey bee health, and so our industry, which is reliant on bees for our success, is encouraging regulators to take a broader, more holistic look at what may be causing bee losses.

When the Sierra Club encourages the use of "precautionary measures" it is either woefully misinformed about the high level of precaution already in place or, worse yet, is wilfully trying to mislead the public. In fact, Health Canada's Pest Control Products Act specifically references the role of the precautionary principle in the registration of pesticides.

The Sierra Club claims that no corn producers would be put out of business by even the highest predicted loss of crops.

Growers strive to increase yields, not just "stay in business." Farmers rely on integrated pest management practices, which mean having access to a wide range of tools. Only with the help of these tools can they continue to grow enough food to meet Canada's needs and feed a growing world population.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne has been steadfast in her support of science-based regulations. We are hopeful that she will continue to collaborate with the industry to find meaningful, long-term solutions to bee health challenges.

Lorne Hepworth

President, CropLife Canada