

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) is concerned with the executive order Gov. Dayton released this morning regarding neonicotinoid applications.

"We understand the concerns involving pollinators and neonics," says MSGA President Theresia Gillie. "However, we are troubled the Governor has politicized this issue and didn't consult with affected producers."

Soybeans are Minnesota's number one exported crop. Limiting the use of this insecticide presents difficult challenges for Minnesota soybean farmers. Minnesota's unique environment creates a greater need for pest management, which left unchecked could prove costly to Minnesota farmers.

"The unintended consequence of this precautionary action is resistance," says Dr. David Kee, research director at Minnesota Soybean. "Using the same modes of action to control pests means the likelihood of creating resistance will grow, ultimately costing Minnesota farmers hundreds of millions of dollars."

Neonicotinoid treatments can be effective for control of soil borne insects when they are present. Minnesota soybean farmers follow best management practices and remain committed to using the available technology to protect pollinator habitat. However, Minnesota soybean farmers also recognize that neonicotinoids, when used appropriately, should not be restricted.