

## Environmental Protection Agency denies Center for Food Safety petition to ban neonicotinoid pesticides

The Environmental Protection Agency denied a petition [September 28] that asked the federal agency to more closely regulate a group of chemicals used in pesticide-coated seeds, which are linked to killing pollinators such as hummingbirds and bumblebees.

The [petition](#), filed in 2017 by nonprofits [Center for Food Safety](#), [Pesticide Action Network of North America](#), and [Pollinator Stewardship Council](#), among other groups, claimed that the EPA's lack of regulation on the seeds "could precipitate an economic and ecological disaster."

"We gave EPA a golden chance and a blueprint to fix a problem that has caused significant harm to people, bees, birds, and the environment — and it stubbornly refused," said Amy van Saun, senior attorney with the [Center for Food Safety](#), in a [statement](#). "It's extremely disappointing and we'll be exploring all possible next steps to protect communities and the environment from the hazard of pesticide-coated seeds, including a lawsuit challenging this decision."

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In its responsive [letter](#), the EPA said it does not agree with the request of the petitioners to "categorically exclude seed treated with systemic pesticides" from the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act](#). This EPA legislation limits the use of pesticides that "generally pose unreasonable risks to people, including agricultural workers, or the environment."

**[This is an excerpt. Read the original post here](#)**