

POP Supports Efforts for State Reduction of Neonicotinoids

(February 27, 2025) Throughout last summer and fall, the Connecticut Pesticide Reform coalition met to discuss issues with pesticides, concentrating mostly on neonicotinoids. The coalition is composed of representatives of various organizations including the Pollinator Pathway, the Xerces Society, Connecticut Audubon, the Sierra Club, Rivers Alliance, Beyond Pesticides, ABC Birds, Save the Sound, Protect Our Pollinators and many more.

Efforts centered on developing language for a bill that would be supported for neonic reduction in Connecticut. We were lucky to be joined by Scott Sanderson, attorney for Vermont's Conservation Law Foundation. Scott had been involved in writing the Vermont bill which has recently been passed into law. Additionally, we were lucky to have Beverly Brakeman, a legislative lobbyist who has experience interacting with legislators, particularly those on the Environment Committee.

The result of many meetings was the bill that was actually raised by the Environment Committee, HB-6916. This bill has two parts, the first part bans use of neonics on golf courses, turf grass, lawns, playing fields, outdoor ornamental plants, property owned by or leased to the state or any municipality, as well as corn, wheat or soybeans. It does allow for emergency uses in cases of invasive insects where no other safer method exists.

The second part of the bill bans the use of neonic coated seeds for corn, wheat or soybeans unless a waiver has been submitted by a farmer and approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture. These requests would be site specific, would be valid for one year only, and most likely would be based on insect infestation in the previous year.

In February the Environment Committee raised this bill, HB-6916, although a number of other neonic bills had been submitted. A hearing was held on February 19 at which over 800 residents submitted written testimony, almost all in favor. This was a significant indication that the public is informed and desires change. POP's written testimony can be seen [here](#).

At this point we are waiting to see what happens next. We are lucky to have Beverly behind the scenes talking to various representatives and keeping the topic alive.

We encourage anyone who would like to support this bill by contacting our local representatives. Their contact information can be seen using this QR code.

