



# HB 5155 AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDE REPORTING MODERNIZATION

Environment Committee Hearing Friday, February 20  
Background and Talking Points for Written Testimony

## WHY WE NEED PESTICIDE REPORTING MODERNIZATION

### PESTICIDE TRACKING IN CONNECTICUT IS OUTDATED

- A 2025 Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) report identifies major deficiencies in the way Connecticut collects and reports pesticide use data.
- Licensed pesticide applicators currently upload images of handwritten paperwork. There is no searchable database.
- This leaves state agencies, researchers, and the public without access to data on pesticide use--what is being used, how much and where.

### PESTICIDES ARE SHOWING UP IN OUR WATER

- US Geological Survey testing shows pesticides in Connecticut groundwater.
- 56% of Connecticut rivers contain pesticides at levels toxic to aquatic life (USGS).
- CT DEEP surveys show a 75% decline in mayflies in the Norwalk River since 1989, the same period pesticide levels began to exceed aquatic life benchmarks.

### PESTICIDE COATED SEEDS ARE NOT TRACKED AT ALL

- A federal loophole exempts pesticides used as seed coatings from being classified as pesticides.
- Therefore no tracking of sales or monitoring of use occur at all for this source of pesticides in the environment.

### MODERNIZING THE SYSTEM WILL:

- Improve data quality for agricultural and environmental decision-making.
- Align with CT DEEP's 20BY26 governmental efficiency initiative.
- Improve DEEP's ability to monitor use and investigate potential violations of state laws and regulations.
- Help researchers detect emerging contamination trends.
- Build public trust. The public has a right to know, according to state law, what pesticides are being used, where, and how much.

### HB 5155 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To require the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to institute the use of modern technology and methodologies for the reporting of pesticide applications in the state and enable ready knowledge of where pesticides are being used, what pesticides are being used and the quantities of pesticides that are being used.

### KEY POINTS TO MAKE

- HB 5155 adds to state law the tracking of how much treated seed is sold in the state, something Vermont has done since 2017, and which fills a key pesticide use data gap.
- Sellers of treated seed would be the ones to report amounts sold in the state
- No added burden on farmers--they buy and plant seeds as always with no added reporting.
- Farmers submit the same information they do now, just into an updated more user-friendly system.
- Commercial applicators (landscape companies) also submit the same information they collect now under state law.
- As the 2025 CEQ Pesticides in CT Report states, a data gap exists because no locational information is required to be submitted to DEEP for restricted-use pesticides applied or directed by Commercial Supervisors.
- The bill language should be strengthened to specify the collection of this locational data.