Wednesday, February 19th at noon is the public hearing on HB 6916 *An Act Concerning the Use of Neonicotinoids*

Please consider signing up to testify or submitting written testimony!
It's easy.

Click **HERE** to submit your testimony. It is best to submit before the hearing on February 19th if possible.

The best testimony includes a personal story about why this issue is important to you and why you would like to see this bill passed in Connecticut.

Some points you may want to make about neoincs are below. Your testimony does not have to be long or complicated, though! A simple message that you support the passage of HB 6916 is great!

Harmful Environmental Effects

- Peer-reviewed studies, USGS, and EPA confirm neonics devastate insect populations, birds, aquatic insects, endangered species, and can be harmful to human health.
- Extremely toxic in small quantities:
    - One square foot of lawn treated with neonics at EPA-approved levels can kill a million bees
    - A single neonic-coated seed contains enough active ingredient to kill a songbird or more than 150,000 bees.
    - Neonics are 7000 times as toxic to insects as DDT
- A case study of the Norwalk River in the 2025 UConn Report, *Neonicotinoids in CT Waters*, shows levels of neonics remain in excess of what the EPA determines as safe for river insects and healthy river eco-systems all year most years. Mayfly populations observed in the Norwalk River have decreased 75% since 1989 according to CT DEEP data.
- A 2016 US Geological Survey (USGS) study of 18 rivers in CT showed 56% contained levels of neonics exceeding EPA aquatic life benchmarks for chronic exposure.
- USGS testing shows steady levels in ground water which raises concerns about well water safety.
- Sharp declines in bee and other insect populations have been linked to neonics in hundreds of studies reviewed in a 2020 Cornell University report.
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station study shows neonics are the most common pesticide to show up in honeybee pollen
- A 2024 peer-reviewed study pinpoints neonics as a critical factor pushing monarchs to extinction.
- Bird declines of more than 2.9 billion in the last 50 years are linked to neonics both directly and indirectly
    - One neonic-coated seed is enough to kill a songbird and sublethal effects include interference with metabolism, migration, and reproduction.

    - 96% of birds depend on insects for food. The largest declines in bird populations are among those that depend on insects and the declines mirror the insect declines worldwide which have been linked to neonics.
- A 2023 EPA study shows neonics are jeopardizing over 200 threatened and endangered species—literally pushing these species toward extinction.

Human Health Effects

- Nicotine-like, neonics affect the neurological system. Studies show harms to heart and brain development in prenatally exposed children, decreased sperm quality and quantity, decreased testosterone, altered insulin regulation, and changes in fat metabolism.
- The CDC found neonics in 50% of the population with highest concentrations in children.
- A 2022 peer-reviewed study from the University of Illinois found neonicotinoids in 95% of the pregnant women who participated in the study.

Regulatory Gaps :

- EPA lacks sufficient resources to address the known harmful impacts of neonics in a timely manner, completing only 5% of its annual Endangered Species Act registration reviews. (EPA) This is under the EPA prior to the current administration which has threatened to abolish the EPA.
- EPA exempts neonic-treated seeds from regulation, despite evidence of extensive contamination and harm resulting from leaching and dust escaping during planting.
- EPA's Insecticide Strategy does not address non-agricultural uses of neonics, such as on turfgrass and ornamentals, which can contribute substantially to environmental contamination.

Often No Economic Benefit to Users:

- Studies show neonic use for grub control on turfgrass is ineffective (CT Agricultural Experiment Station--CAES)
- Studies show seed treatment on row crops (corn, soybean) does not increase yields and provides no economic benefit to farmers (Cornell).

The Proposed Bill HB 6916 Limits Uses Shown to Provide LITTLE-TO-NO ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO USERS And Allows for Waivers for Emergency Use

The Bill Restricts High Harm, Low Benefit Uses

- HB 6916 prohibits cosmetic uses such as on lawns and ornamental landscaping
- It prohibits the use of neonic treated corn, soybean or wheat seeds
- It allows for emergency waivers in the event that an invasive pest or other insect poses a threat to the environment or human health.
- New York and Vermont have passed similar bills barring these coated seeds
- New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Maine, and Nevada have passed laws barring use on lawns and/or ornamental landscaping.

- Outdoor neonic uses are banned in Europe and parts of Canada and crop yields have remained unchanged, and in Canada they have even increased. Only 3-4% of Ontario farmers recouped the costs of the treated seed.

Delays and uncertainty at the federal level highlight the importance of state-level action.

More information at CTPesticideReform.org
Send your testimony to your state representatives, too. Find them here.