



# SUPPORT HB 5155 AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDE REPORTING MODERNIZATION

As amended this important bill requires a working group to study the value and costs of creating a digital database that receives and makes available pesticide sales and use data required to be submitted to the state.

## WHY WE NEED PESTICIDE REPORTING MODERNIZATION

### **PESTICIDE TRACKING IN CONNECTICUT IS OUTDATED**

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- 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 digital, usable database.
- This leaves state agencies, researchers, and the public without access to data on pesticide use--what is being used, how much and where. This information is required by statute to be reported and made available.

### **PESTICIDES ARE SHOWING UP IN OUR WATER**

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- 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**

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- 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:**

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- 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.