

THE PROBLEM

Pesticides are being used in large quantities without consideration for the harmful effects these toxic chemicals are having on public health, air and water quality, wildlife and our environment. Because the federal government has abdicated its duty to regulate pesticides effectively, Connecticut must step up to protect our citizens and natural resources.

Compounding the issue in Connecticut, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) does not have an adequate tracking system that would allow for transparency about what types of pesticides are in use, where they are being applied, and who is using them. The lack of a tracking system prevents DEEP from being able to oversee and adequately enforce pesticide regulations already in place.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Connecticut must expand the Pollinator Protection Act and ban the use of neonicotinoids.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection needs to restrict the use of neonicotinoids for non- agricultural purposes and restrict the use of certain seeds treated with pesticides.

Pollinator Protection Act. Connecticut has taken substantial steps to regulate pesticides in specific situations. In 2016 Connecticut passed the Pollinator Protection Act which classified Neonicotinoids (Neonics) as "restricted use" which means that only certified pesticide applicators can use Neonics. Unfortunately, Neonics are still being used in dangerous quantities in Connecticut endangering wildlife, pets, pollinators and human health. New Jersey and Maine have already taken steps to restrict the Neonics and banned them for all ornamental uses. New York is currently working to pass similar legislation.



FAST FACTS

- ◆ **Neonicotinoids Are Toxic, Persistent, and Everywhere.** As the world's most widely used insecticides, neonics have made U.S. agriculture 48-times more harmful to insects since their introduction in the mid-1990s.
- ◆ **Neonics May Harm Human Health.** There has been human and animal research that links neonicotinoids to potential neurological, developmental and reproductive harms, including malformations of the developing heart and brain.
- ◆ **Neonicotinoids Harm Wildlife.** Scientific evidence links neonicotinoid use to massive bee and bird population loss. In CT, beekeepers lost 65.7% of their colonies last year, the third steepest losses in the country. Eating just one neonic-treated seed is enough to kill some songbirds, and even at low doses, neonics can harm birds' immune systems, fertility, navigation, cause rapid weight loss, and reduce birds' chances of surviving in the wild.

MORE INFORMATION

Tara Cook-Littman
Visionary Campaign Group LLC
taracook.littman@gmail.com