



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT OF SB 190**
AAC THE USE OF NEONICOTINOIDS
March 7, 2024

To: Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, and Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee

From: Lori Brown, Executive Director, CT League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of SB 190** that seeks to restrict the use of harmful neonicotinoids in the state.

Many experts consider neonicotinoids to be the “new DDT”

Neonicotinoids or “neonics” are neurotoxic pesticides that are linked to massive bee and insect losses around the globe, vast water and soil contamination, ecosystem-wide harms, and human health concerns.

CTLCV appreciates and supports the environment committee for putting forth a bill to restrict the use of neonicotinoids. However, we are concerned that SB 190 does not accomplish the bill’s stated purpose. This chemical is widely used unnecessarily on golf courses, lawns, and ornamental shrubs, but the bill fails to ban these non-agricultural uses.

Furthermore, CTLCV is concerned with the language in SB 190 that states neonics “may be used . . . for protection against ticks and mosquitos.” Neonics are not generally used in this way and this clause could lead to the unnecessary and ineffective spraying of vast areas by claiming it was used for mosquito and tick control.

We request that SB 190 be amended to restrict nonagricultural uses of neonics. The neonic bill proposed in 2023 (SB 963) would accomplish this goal, and we urge you to use this bill to amend SB 190.

In 2023, SB 963 passed out of the Environment and the Appropriations Committees and was supported by both DEEP and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. SB 963 did not ban the use of neonics on farms or nurseries and had a specific emergency use provision to allow for situations when no other option besides neonics was available to solve a specific pest problem. In addition, SB 963 exempted critical uses of neonics including indoor pest control, and veterinary uses.

The provisions of SB 963 strike an effective balance between environmental protection and the need for effective pest management, ensuring the continued viability of neonics in certain contexts while safeguarding against their widespread misuse. We encourage legislators to adopt this policy in SB 190.

Many neonics are applied whether or not there is a pest problem, which can actually reduce crop yields and damage soil health by killing off pollinators, beneficial bugs and microbes, and predators of insect pests.

Thank you for considering legislation to protect wildlife, pets, pollinators, and human health from these dangerous chemicals.

CTLCV urges the committee to **SUPPORT SB 190 with amendments** to include restricting nonagricultural uses of neonics.

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