



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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*March 4, 2016 Testimony by Representative Mitch Bolinsky  
Before the Environment Committee on:  
**RAISED SB 231: AN ACT CONCERNING POLLINATOR HEALTH***

My thanks to the Honorable Co-Chairs, Senator Kennedy and Representative Albis; Vice Chairs Senator Moore and Representative Arconti; Ranking Members Senator Chapin and Representative Shaban; and the entire Environment Committee for the opportunity to speak with you today.

I speak in support of ***RAISED SB 231: AN ACT CONCERNING POLLINATOR HEALTH***.

This bill is a much needed measure to both protect and learn more about how to best restore native populations of pollinators in our state. For many years, these hard-working helpers of food production, honey have been in sharp decline, a result of widespread use of neonicotinoids which are toxic to bees.

These insecticides are systemic, non-selective, water soluble, pervasive and persistent in soils. Beyond our pollinators, they threaten other insects, birds, macroinvertebrates and water resources.

The development of “best practices” for minimizing or eliminating airborne spread of neonics is a good strategy, although, exempting there us during the growing season, as we do in Section 4, should probably be rethought.

Establishing a task force is also a good step to fully understand which neonics are harming pollinators, the environment and to what extent so we can have a thoughtful mitigation plan.

Labeling standards outlined in Section 6 should be strengthened to include all nursery plants and seeds treated with neonicotinoids be labeled as harmful to pollinators, as should garden products containing neonicotinoids for sale to homeowners and landscapers, similar to a 2013 EPA labeling requirement that is not being followed in Connecticut.

Finally, I am in favor of the proposed prioritization of pollinator habitats and development of a citizen’s guide to raise awareness of this problem and potential solutions

Thank you for your time and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Representative Mitch Bolinsky