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Esteemed Members of the Environment Committee:

This testimony is in reference to Senate Bill Number 231-An Act Concerning Pollinator Health.

The Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association would first like to commend the Environment Committee for recognizing the importance of sensible legislation regarding pollinators. We support Agriculture as well as Horticultural Services and fully understand the importance of pollinators to the environment as well as to our livelihoods.

A great deal of conflicting testimony will be submitted and heard. For that reason, we strongly urge that the committee move the bill forward by forming a task force where all affected constituents have a voice, and remove the rest of the bill's language for now. This task force should have stakeholders that are knowledgeable about research and the application of neonicotinoids in the turf and horticultural landscape. Consensus could be built with input from all parties so the task force could then offer carefully vetted guidance to the Committee.

Should the decision to move the bill forward be taken, I would ask that the definitions of plants on line 30 horticultural uses on line 33 be clarified to include turf when applied by an appropriately DEEP licensed professional with a 3-A applicators license.

Thank you for everything you do to protect our state, especially with the long hours and difficult decisions that have to be made within the tight framework of a short session. I am always available should the committee have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darryl Newman
Legislative Co-Chair
Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association