



**FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT**

March 4, 2016

RB 231 AAC POLLINATOR HEALTH

To: Sen. Ted Kennedy Jr. and Rep. James Albis, Chairmen;
and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship.

We strongly support cessation of use of neonicotinoid pesticides as rapidly as possible. These are potent neurotoxins that persist in the environment. The US Geological Survey has reported that pesticides are to be found in all US streams, with neonicotinoids strongly represented. Freshwater species are disproportionately represented in the present species die-off. The literature is alarming. We believe that the testimony of Dr. Kim Stoner, although conservative, points to a need for immediate action.

The testimony of DEEP Commissioner Rob Klee also points to a need to restructure the state's pesticide program. He notes that DEEP has authorized for sale and distribution more than 12,000 (!) pesticides and does not have the capability to do a search for chemical ingredients. He suggests that the bill should not prohibit the use of nicotinoids on linden and basswood trees because the state already prohibits this use and the prohibition is enforceable. DEEP has almost no resources to enforce any pesticide application. Dr. Stoner particularly mentions the importance of sparing linden and basswood trees, so perhaps that prohibition especially should be more widely publicized.

We are turning our surface and ground waters into a chemical brew of unknown toxic effects.
Thank you for your attention to this problem,

Margaret Miner, Executive Director, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, Litchfield CT

Here follow citations:

“An Overview of the environmental risks posed by neonicotinoid insecticides,” David Goulson, University of Stirling, UK (*Journal of Applied Ecology*, 2013, v.50). Here is the link.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.12111/epdf>

“First national-scale reconnaissance of neonicotinoid insecticides in streams across the USA,”

Michelle L. Hladik and Dana W. Kolpin (*Environmental Chemistry*, August 2015).

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/paper/EN15061.htm>

“Birds, Bess, and Aquatic Life Threatened by Gross Underestimate of Toxicity of World’s Most Widely Used Pesticide,” The American Bird Conservancy, March 20, 2013