



**For the Environment Committee
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director
February 15, 2023**

Rivers Alliance was formed to fight for sound water policies at the state and federal levels, to provide education on water resources, and to advocate for any person or group striving to protect water. If you want clean, free-flowing and healthy rivers, and high-quality drinking water, Rivers Alliance is here to help.

**SB 963 AN ACT CONCERNING NEONICOTINOIDS FOR NONAGRICULTURAL
USE– Support**

Thank you for this proposed legislation to prohibit the use of neonicotinoids for non-agricultural use that will keep Connecticut at the forefront of states that take action to protect its citizens and environment.

Pesticides, in general, are an endocrine disruptor that can cause abnormalities in fish, frogs and salamanders and also impact aquatic invertebrates.

Neonicotinoids are neurotoxic pesticides linked to massive bee and insect losses around the globe and, increasingly, to vast water and soil contamination, ecosystem-wide harms, and human health concerns. Cornell University research reveals that the neonicotinoid uses that pose the greatest threats to bees are also those that provide little-to-no benefits to users or are easily replaceable with safer alternatives. SB 120 strengthens CT's 2016 Pollinator Protection Act by prohibiting these wasteful uses on residential landscapes such as lawns and golf courses.

We also urge the committee to consider DEEP's ability to regulate and enforce pesticide regulation. DEEP's pesticide regulation generates significant revenue that is not dedicated to administering its own pesticide programs according to The Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) 2017 report "[*Environmental Enforcement in Connecticut, Part 1: Pesticides*](#)." The report points out that the fee revenue generated by DEEP from the pesticide program is approximately \$3,000,000. One of the recommendations in the report is that DEEP receives dedicated funds from that revenue to enhance enforcement and transparency.

Please pass this bill.