



**For the Environment Committee
Testimony of Alicea Charamut, Executive Director
February 19, 2025**

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the following raised bill before you today.

HB 6916 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF NEONICOTINOIDS – Supports

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. We fully support this proposed bill.

Neonics also pose a threat to aquatic and wetland species. Pesticides, in general, are an endocrine disruptor that can cause abnormalities in fish, frogs and salamanders and also impact aquatic invertebrates.

United States Geological Survey water quality monitoring data in Connecticut reveals that imidacloprid, one of the insecticides that are part of the suite of neonicotinoids, shows up **consistently at levels above the Environmental Protection Agency’s benchmark for aquatic life**. A [University of Connecticut Report](#) concludes that “[c]onsiderable research in North America and Europe has demonstrated that the use of neonicotinoids is associated with reductions in the abundance and diversity of invertebrate species in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems” and “detected levels of imidacloprid in Connecticut streams exceed levels at which deleterious effects on aquatic biota were observed in research elsewhere.”

For the water bugs, the fish, the bees, the frogs, and the salamanders, please pass this bill.