

February 20, 2026

Testimony of Joshua Levin, Legislative & Advocacy Manager

In SUPPORT of HB 5155 – An Act Concerning Pesticide Reporting Modernization

Thank you, distinguished members of the Environment Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting HB 5155.

Connecticut residents, along with our wildlife, waterways, and ecosystems, would benefit significantly from the creation of a publicly accessible pesticide sales and use database. Modernizing pesticide collection and reporting is a practical, data-driven step that would strengthen public health, improve transparency, and enhance the quality of information available to state agencies and the public alike.

Documented Health Risks

Exposure to neonicotinoids (neonics), the most commonly used insecticide in the world, has been proven to impact human health. Since 1993, research from the Agricultural Health Study¹ has led to the publication of over 200 scientific reports that indicate a direct link between pesticide exposure and increased risk for:

- Parkinson's disease
- Autoimmune disorders
- Kidney disease
- Respiratory and neurological effects

The inherent health risks associated with pesticide exposure underscore the importance of accurate, accessible data to ensure residents, researchers, and policymakers have the information necessary to understand where and how these chemicals are being used.

Ecological Risks

In 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency published their Biological Evaluations measuring the impact clothianidin, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam have on endangered species and critical habitats.² They concluded that these three common neonics are likely to adversely affect 67% to 79% of all endangered species and between 56% and 83% of critical habitats.

The effects that neonics have on wildlife and the environment are not isolated. These findings demonstrate pervasive ecological harm impacting hundreds of species and critical habitats.

Connecticut-Specific Data

Data from Connecticut reinforces the need for a modernized pesticide database. A 2025 study found neonics in 42% of tested Connecticut rivers and detected their presence in groundwater across the state.³ **When chemicals designed to**

¹ National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. (n.d.) Pesticides. <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/pesticides#:~:text=Agricultural%20Health%20Study>

² United States Environmental Protection Agency. (2022). *EPA Finalizes Biological Evaluations Assessing Potential Effects of Three Neonicotinoid Pesticides on Endangered Species*. <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/epa-finalizes-biological-evaluations-assessing-potential-effects-three-neonicotinoid>

³ Presley, S. J., Perkins, C. R., & Willig, M. R. (2025). Neonicotinoids in Connecticut Waters: Surface Water, Groundwater, and Threats to Aquatic Ecosystems. <https://ctaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Neonicotinoids-in-Connecticut-Waters-Final-Report-1-11-2025-11.pdf>

disrupt insect nervous systems are consistently found in waterways, the need for comprehensive, accessible data becomes clear.

Bill Language Addition Request

Connecticut's current pesticide reporting framework contains significant limitations.⁴ Bill language should be improved by requiring Commercial Supervisors to include locational data pertaining to pesticide application in their report.

Rationale for Modernization

Establishing a modernized, publicly accessible pesticide database would enhance the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's monitoring and investigative capacity, support early contamination identification, and foster greater public trust.

When peer-reviewed research links pesticide exposure to chronic health issues, when federal evaluations indicate widespread ecological risk, and when state-specific data confirms measurable contamination, action must be taken to ensure that Connecticut has the infrastructure necessary to monitor and respond effectively.

HB 5155 – An Act Concerning Pesticide Reporting Modernization would build that infrastructure. I strongly urge the committee to act favorably on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

⁴ The Connecticut Council of Environmental Quality. (2025). Pesticides in Connecticut. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/ceq/publications/2025/pesticides-12-23-2025f.pdf?rev=0254e2e5f78d42109bcc1413307e902a&hash=88E43C72B65E0099AAB673644F6E6404>