

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 190

Environment Committee

Submitted by Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director

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Co-Chairs Lopes and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Hochadel and Palm, Ranking Members Harding and Callahan, and members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is the state's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, including its ~120 land trusts. CLCC is a 501(c)(3) organization operating statewide. Our mission is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut. In all capacities, CLCC's goal is to safeguard our natural and working lands, prioritize the vital role of nature-based solutions in mitigating the escalating effects of the inter-related crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, and ensure that everyone everywhere has access to the benefits of nature.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony regarding **Senate Bill No. 190, An Act Concerning the Use of Neonicotinoids**, which seeks to prohibit the nonagricultural use of Neonicotinoids.

Neonicotinoids ("neonics") are a class of insecticides that pose an urgent threat to pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other essential insects. These chemicals directly harm pollinator populations and have far-reaching implications for ecosystem health and biodiversity. The disruption of pollinator populations by neonics can lead to severe consequences for natural and agricultural ecosystems, including those that provide food for humans and habitat for wildlife. Moreover, neonics can persist in the environment for extended periods, contaminating soil, water, and plants long after application. This prolonged exposure poses a significant risk not only to pollinators and other beneficial insects but also to human beings.¹

At a time when biodiversity loss has reached unprecedented levels, we must take proactive measures to protect our natural ecosystems. **While CLCC supports SB 190 in concept, we join others in the concern that, as drafted, the bill does not accomplish its intended purpose of restricting nonagricultural uses of neonics.** To ensure its effectiveness, we request that the Committee amend SB 190 before it is voted upon to reflect the language in SB 963 from the 2023 session, as detailed in the testimony of Rivers Alliance of Connecticut and others.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our comments and for all you do. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

¹ Resources include <https://cornell.app.box.com/v/2020-neonicotinoid-report> and <https://abcbirds.org/news/2023-neonic-report/>

