

State Representative Dara Torre,

Based on a new law passed by New York State, H.706 seeks to protect our bees, birds, wildlife, and diversified food systems by banning the use of toxic Neonic pesticides.

Seeds treated with Neonics distribute the toxin throughout the plant, including the pollen and nectar. Bees then bring those dangerous toxins back to the hive where they can impact the entire colony.

A single Neonic treated corn kernel can kill a bird the size of a Blue Jay. This pesticide is contributing to the decline in bird populations in Vermont, including the following, which have seen some of the most severe declines:

- Common Nighthawk -- 91% decline
- Purple Martin -- 62% decline
- Eastern Meadowlark -- 55% decline
- Chimney Swift -- 25% decline

Bees and other pollinators are critical to producing fruits such as apples, blueberries, and tomatoes, and play a critical role in ensuring diversified food systems across the state and the country.

Vermont cares about our natural world and food systems. We have been a leader in GMO labeling, creating direct markets for farm raised foods, and taking action to protect the long term health of our soils and waters.

I urge you to pass H.706 and join lawmakers in New York State and Quebec in banning the use of toxic Neonic pesticides in farming.

Thank you,

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