

Testimony of Kevin Mack
Before the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency, and Forestry
February 20, 2024

Chairman Durfee and members of the Vermont State Agriculture, Food Resiliency & Forestry Committee, thank you for granting me the opportunity to provide written testimony on H.706, the bill requiring restrictions on neonicotinoids.

My name is Kevin Mack, a resident of West Burke and a member of Audubon Vermont's Advisory Board for the past decade.

I encourage you to support H. 706.

The science is very clear on the impact to our environment from this widely used insecticide. That impact is unequivocally negative. This legislation strikes a balance that targets the most direct and negative consequences of its use and as such reflects a very Vermont approach to legislating for the protection of our present and our future.

Neonicotinoid seed coatings are the most widespread insecticide in Vermont. Estimates of application by this method indicate it is used more than all other insecticides in the state combined by several measures. Corn is the most widely used application for neonicotinoids and any steps to reduce use in Vermont's working agricultural lands would make a tremendous difference and greatly reduce the negative impacts to birds, pollinators, water quality and non-target species.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kevin Mack
558 Sugarhouse Road
West Burke, VT 05871