

Hello,

My name is Bill Wirtz, I'm the Senior Policy Analyst at the Consumer Choice Center, where I cover agriculture and trade policy. As the Vermont legislature is currently reviewing new legislation on the use of neonicotinoid insecticides, I wanted to share with you [a piece I wrote for the Times-Argus](#), about the potential consequences of the bill.

I gather that you will be having a hearing on bill H. 706 at 3.30 PM today.

From my analysis, the bill is not accompanied with an adequate impact assessment on the repercussions on consumer prices, and its economic significance for both state exports and local farm businesses. Experience from Canada and the European Union, which are specifically mentioned in the bill, do not apply to Vermont. The Canadian example would teach policy-makers that the bill would have to be accompanied with a substantial subsidisation program, and the EU experience negates the motivation for the bill altogether, as farmers have been protesting heavy regulatory burdens for months now.

I am happy to provide you with more information on this issue. My organisation fights for available, affordable and sustainable food systems, and we believe this bill would not achieve this aim.

Best regards,

Bill Wirtz

Senior Policy Analyst

Consumer Choice Center