



Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Inc.

*Farmers working together for a clean Lake Champlain
and thriving agriculture in Vermont.*

House Agriculture Committee
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

February 7, 2024

Re: Bill H.706 – Banning Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides

Dear Chairman Durfee, Vice Chairman Surprenant, Ranking Member Graham, and Committee members,

The Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition (CVFC), representing over 75 diversified farms in Addison and Chittenden County, has been a strong driver of economic growth and environmental stewardship in the state of Vermont. We understand that this is a difficult issue before the Committee but we believe that finding compromise is in everyone's best interest.

We would therefore like to propose that the Committee adopt language in H.706 that is consistent with the Birds the Bees Act passed by Gov Kathy Hochul of New York in December 2023. The language in the New York bill protects pollinators, addresses environmental concerns, and provides a safety net for farmers as they transition to alternative seed and seed treatments.

Our members have concerns relating to the availability of untreated seed, the need for additional research on alternative seed and seed treatments, and the availability of crop insurance if they were to incur losses. In our view, addressing these concerns would require a minimum of five years before the ban goes into effect.

We look forward to testifying before the Committee and thank the Committee for its efforts.

Sincerely,

Vijay Nazareth
Executive Director

Brian Kemp
President