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Committee on Environment and Agriculture
NH House of Representatives
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Members of the Committee,

I write to support both HB 1086 and HB 1431 related to the restriction of the use of Neonicotinoid pesticides.

As a former professor of environmental science as well as a long time angler I have become very concerned about the unintended side effects of these pesticides. Some detailed research of the scientific literature reveals that these pesticides have serious impacts on aquatic macroinvertebrates (insects) including mayflies, caddisflies and others. These insects form the basis of the food supply for numerous fish species, most notably trout and salmon.

Studies I have reviewed indicate that at levels commonly found in streams and ponds following the use of neonics in a watershed result in the loss of up to 50% of the populations of these aquatic insects. It appears that the greatest impact, producing the largest levels of neonics in water, come from the use of neonic coated seeds in agriculture.

Adjoining states have recognized these problems and have addressed them with similar legislation. Both of these bills seek to place reasonable limits on the use of neonics that will allow continued use while seeking to minimize unintended impacts.

I urge your support for this bi-partisan legislation.

Sincerely,


Paul A. Doscher