



January 13, 2026

Chair Judy Aron
New Hampshire House Environment and Agriculture
Granite Place, Room 153
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1431, AN ACT restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

Dear Chair Aron and Members of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee,

On behalf of NH LAKES, I am writing to express our support for HB 1431, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

NH LAKES represents approximately 150 local lake associations, community groups, and thousands of individuals across New Hampshire. We are a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring and preserving the health of New Hampshire's lakes. Healthy lakes and streams are essential to drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, tourism, wildlife, and the overall quality of life in our state.

What This Bill Does

HB 1431 reduces pesticide contamination of lakes, rivers, and groundwater by reclassifying neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted use, limiting their purchase and application to certified applicators, and prohibiting their use for non-agricultural purposes. These provisions focus on preventing misuse and unnecessary applications while still allowing trained professionals to apply these chemicals where truly warranted.

Education Is Central to This Bill

Importantly, HB 1431 recognizes that lasting environmental protection depends not only on restrictions, but also on education and awareness. The bill directs the Department to develop an educational program to increase public understanding of neonicotinoid impacts and to encourage safer, more sustainable pest management approaches. This education-focused component supports voluntary behavior change, informed decision-making, and long-term reductions in pesticide runoff to New Hampshire's waters.

Why This Bill Matters

Neonicotinoids are highly water-soluble, persistent, systemic insecticides. Because they are absorbed into plant tissues and do not readily degrade, they can leach into soil, groundwater, and surface waters, persisting through stormwater and wastewater treatment and increasingly appearing in drinking water supplies.

New Hampshire's small watersheds, shallow groundwater, and interconnected lake–river systems make our waters especially vulnerable to chronic neonicotinoid contamination. Even at very low concentrations, these chemicals cause ecological harm.

Neonicotinoids are toxic to aquatic insects and zooplankton, which form the foundation of freshwater food webs. Documented impacts include reduced abundance and diversity of aquatic insects, disruption of food sources for fish and wildlife, and long-term weakening of lake and stream ecosystem function.

Testing conducted in 2025 detected neonicotinoids in the surface waters in the Wolfeboro area, including in Lake Winnepesaukee, confirming that these chemicals are present in New Hampshire waters.

Connection to Cyanobacteria and Water Quality

While direct causal links are still under investigation, existing research suggests that neonicotinoid-driven disruption of aquatic food webs may contribute to conditions that favor cyanobacteria blooms. By reducing the natural grazers of algae and altering microbial communities, neonicotinoids may exacerbate the impacts of nutrient pollution, leading to more frequent, persistent, and severe blooms that can be toxic—an increasing concern in New Hampshire lakes and rivers.

For these reasons, NH LAKES respectfully urges the committee to recommend HB 1431 as Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting New Hampshire's environment. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact me at alamoreaux@nhlakes.org or 603.226.0299.

Respectfully,



Andrea LaMoreaux
NH LAKES President & Policy Advocate

cc: Representative John MacDonald, prime sponsor