



January 13, 2026

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

RE: HB 1086, AN ACT prohibiting the sale of certain agricultural seeds treated with neonicotinoids

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

On behalf of NH LAKES, I am writing to express support for HB 1086, prohibiting the sale and use of certain agricultural seeds treated with neonicotinoids.

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. Clean and healthy lakes are essential to drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, wildlife habitat, tourism, and the state's economy.

What This Bill Does

HB 1086 prohibits the sale, use, or importation of corn, wheat, and soybean seeds treated with neonicotinoid pesticides, while allowing sellers or users to request a waiver from the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food when warranted. This approach addresses pesticide pollution while maintaining flexibility for agricultural producers.

Why This Bill Matters

Neonicotinoids are highly water-soluble, persistent, systemic insecticides. We understand that research has shown that only a small fraction—approximately five percent of the active ingredient applied to the seed—is absorbed by the plant, while the remainder persists in the soil. Because these chemicals 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.

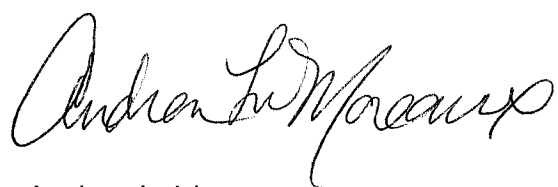
Connection to Cyanobacteria and Water Quality

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 cyanobacteria 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 1086 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