

Testimony in Support of Neonicotinoid Insecticides

Presented by Matthew Blodget CCA, Seed Solutions Inc

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Chairperson and members of the committee, good afternoon my name is Matt Blodget and I am a certified crop advisor and the owner of Seed Solutions Inc located in New Gloucester. I provide corn, grass, and cover crop seed as well as consulting services to the farmers of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am here to offer testimony in support of the continued use and careful regulation of neonicotinoid insecticides—commonly referred to as “neonics.”

Neonicotinoids are a class of systemic insecticides that have become a vital tool in modern agriculture. They offer effective protection against a wide range of harmful pests while minimizing the need for frequent applications. Because neonics are often applied as seed treatments, they target pests during the early stages of crop development, reducing the overall environmental footprint compared to traditional foliar sprays.

For farmers, especially those growing high-value crops such as corn, soybeans, and canola, neonics help ensure consistent yields and economic stability. Without them, growers would face higher production costs and greater vulnerability to invasive pest outbreaks that can devastate entire harvests.

Critically, research and real-world usage have shown that, when used according to label instructions and integrated into a broader pest management strategy, neonics pose a low risk to pollinators and non-target species. Ongoing advances in application techniques, seed coatings, and risk mitigation efforts continue to improve their safety profile.

Rather than banning or overly restricting this important tool, the focus should be on science-based regulation, farmer education, and continued investment in monitoring and research. With responsible stewardship, we can balance the needs of agriculture with the health of ecosystems and pollinator populations.

I urge this body to support policies that preserve access to neonicotinoids while promoting responsible use. Farmers need tools that are both effective and sustainable, and neonics have proven themselves to be exactly that.

Thank you for your time and attention. I am happy to answer any questions.