

Testimony on LD 1323: An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides
and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds

Good Afternoon Senator Talbot Ross, Reprehensive Pluecker and the members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

My name is Eric Seaman. My wife and I farm approximately 40 acres of vegetables, small fruit and tree fruit in Litchfield and am here today testifying in opposition to LD 1323. This Picture was taken yesterday.



As farmers in Maine our season is short. Yes even though it's cold and wet and soil conditions are far from ideal we are planting. Our success is dependent on having fresh vegetables and fruits to sell to our customers for as long as possible. Our success is also dependent on having the tool we need to protect our crops in these adverse conditions. Tools this bill will take away from us.

Treated seed is essential for success in spring condition in Maine.

Recommendations in the New England Vegetable Management Guide , a publication by Cooperative Extensions in New England, advise waiting until soil temperature reaches 65 degrees before planting untreated seed, a temperature which may not be reached until late May or June. More than half of my corn crop is planted before ideal conditions are reached. Seed treatments contain products for the protection against soil insects and diseases that may destroy the seed. The available treatments all contain a neonicotinoid as part of the protection. I believe banning this type of treatment will result in the loss of treated seed being available. It will mean the loss of 3 to 4 weeks of corn sales and the customer traffic it generates.

Please forward this bill with an Ought Not TO PASS recommendation.

Thank You and I would be happy to answer any question you have.

Eric Seaman