



Henry L. Ingwersen  
Senator, District 32

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Co-sponsor testimony of Senator Henry Ingwersen in support of*  
**LD 1323, An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use  
and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*

April 15, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and colleagues of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. I am Senator Henry Ingwersen, and I represent Senate District 32, which includes Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis and Lyman. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of **LD 1323**, "*An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds.*"

In addition to serving in the Maine Senate, My partner Christine and I own Ginger Hill Bees in Arundel, a small, sustainable apiary. We produce honey, beeswax, and small nucleus hives for local beekeepers. Our practices include overwintering our bees, raising our own queens, and propagating hives. As spring arrives, our bee yard is beginning to be abuzz with activity.

It is because of my personal experience as a beekeeper and passion for these creatures that I chose to be listed as lead co-sponsor on LD 1323. Beyond honeybees, Maine is home to over 270 native bee species, which are vital for pollinating crops such as apples, blueberries, cucumbers, and tomatoes. About 75% of all flowering plants and over a third of all food crops rely on pollinators to reproduce. Concerningly, just one teaspoon of neonic pesticides is enough to deliver lethal doses to 1.25 billion honeybees, and neonics have been widely cited to be a cause of bee decline in the United States.

Despite the 2021 enactment of LD 155, which restricted certain neonicotinoid uses in residential landscapes, these harmful pesticides continue to pose significant risks to pollinators due to their continued use in coated seeds and other applications. Neonicotinoids are systemic insecticides that, once absorbed by plants, contaminate nectar and pollen, remaining in the soil and groundwater long after application.

LD 1323 proposes a comprehensive prohibition on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides and the sale of neonicotinoid-treated seeds in Maine. This legislation is a crucial step toward safeguarding our pollinators from these toxic substances. By eliminating neonicotinoids from our environment, we can reduce the threats they pose to bee populations and, by extension, to the agricultural systems that depend on them.

*Chair, Health and Human Services Committee \* Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee*  
*State House: (207) 287-1515 \* Fax: (207) 287-1585 \* Toll Free: 1-800-423-6900 \* TTY: 711*  
*Henry.Ingwersen@legislature.maine.gov \* legislature.maine.gov/senate*

*Proudly representing Senate District 32: Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis, Lyman*



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As a beekeeper who has experienced significant hive losses, I understand the urgency of this issue. While challenges like habitat loss, climate change, and pests like the varroa mite are complex and multifaceted, removing neonicotinoids from the equation is a tangible action we can take now. LD 1323 offers a practical, science-based approach to protect pollinators, our food supply, and our environment.

I urge my fellow honey lovers, farmers, gardeners, and all who appreciate the vital role of pollinators to support LD 1323. Together, we can create a safer, healthier environment for bees and ensure the continued prosperity of Maine's agriculture.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions within my knowledge about these remarkable creatures.

**Henry Ingwersen**  
State Senator, District 32

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