



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

Timothy J. Bishop

Linda Bowers

Christopher Donnelly

David Kalafa

Aimee Petras

S. Derek Phelps

Denise Rodosevich

William Warzecha

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

February 28, 2025

Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Parker, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Bumgardner, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee,

Re: Senate Bill No. 9 - An Act Concerning the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Municipal and State Planning, and the Use of Neonicotinoids and Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides.

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) is a nine-member board that works independently of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess the condition of Connecticut's environment and report its findings annually to the Governor; recommend actions to improve state environmental programs; advise other state agencies on the environmental impacts of proposed projects; and investigate citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.

The Council **SUPPORTS** the concepts identified in Committee Bill No. 9 that would prepare for and address the impacts associated with climate change, including but not limited to "increased temperatures, drought, flooding, wildfire, storm damage and sea level rise". As noted in the Council's annual report, [Environmental Quality in Connecticut](#), the trend over more than sixty years suggests that Connecticut's climate is getting warmer and precipitation is increasing, and the trend for [sea level](#) is increasing.

- The Council **SUPPORTS** the provisions of Section 21 that would require the Water Planning Council to consider the potential impact of climate change in the next periodic update to the state water plan.
- The Council **SUPPORTS** the provisions of Section 32 that would require priority consideration in the solicitation, selection and design of infrastructure projects designed to increase resilience and that (1) utilize natural and nature-based solutions intended to restore, maintain or enhance ecosystem services and processes that maintain or improve on environmental quality in or adjacent to the district, or (2) address the needs of environmental justice communities,
- The Council **SUPPORTS** the provisions of Section 34 that would reduce the use of any pesticide that contains any neonicotinoid, except for pesticides used on an agricultural plant or to eliminate an invasive invertebrate pest if the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) determines that no other effective control option is available. As noted in the findings of a recent study conducted by the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE), University of Connecticut, [Neonicotinoids in Connecticut Water](#),

“considerable research in North America and Europe has demonstrated that the use of neonicotinoids is associated with reductions in the abundance and diversity of invertebrate species in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. These effects can cascade throughout food webs and affect the abundance of consumer species such as birds, fish, mammals, and other vertebrates, potentially compromising the delivery of ecosystem services”.¹

Thank you for consideration of the Council’s comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Aresta", with a stylized, flowing script.

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

¹ Presley, S., Perkins, C., and Willig, M., 2025, Neonicotinoids in Connecticut Waters - Surface Water, Groundwater, and Threats to Aquatic Ecosystems, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of Connecticut; <https://environmental-sciences-engineering-center.media.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3703/2025/02/Neonicotinoids-in-Connecticut-Final-Report-1-11-2025.pdf>