NEW HAVEN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Laura Cahn, Chair --- Kathy Fay, Vice Chair --- Iris Kaminski, Secretary
Frank Douglass, Jr., Board of Alders Representative
Doreen Abubakar, Xochitl Garcia, Florestine Taylor

February 27, 2023

To: Co-Chairs Lopes and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Hochadel and Palm, Ranking Members Harding and Callahan and members of the Environment Committee:

Re: SB 963, AN ACT CONCERNING NEONICOTINOIDS FOR NONAGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

The New Haven Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), the city board that deals with environmental issues, strongly supports S.B. 963, An Act Concerning Neonicotinoids for Non-Agricultural Use, and encourages you to support it and to call it for a committee vote and approve it.

Neonicotinoids (neonics) are neurotoxic pesticides linked to massive bee and insect losses, water contamination, harm to ecosystems, and human health concerns.

SB 963 would prohibit the non-agricultural use of neonicotinoids. We rely on pollinators to keep us alive by enabling plants to grow. Pollinators are counting on us not to poison them with neonicotinoids.

Thank you for protecting our pollinators, our environment, and our health.

Sincerely,

The New Haven Environmental Advisory Council
https://www.newhavenct.gov/government/boards-commissions/boards-commissions-listed/environmental-advisory-council

Contact: Laura Cahn, Chairwoman, laurasline@sbcglobal.net

Neonics -
Recent EPA findings:
https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/new-labeling-neonicotinoid-pesticides
https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/proposed-interim-registration-review-decision-neonicotinoids

Recent Congressional findings:
Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act, a bill introduced by Senator Cory Booker:
https://www.booker.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/protect_americas_children_from_toxic_pesticides_act1.pdf
(page 3, lines 17-21): (9) neonicotinoid pesticides are contributing to the rapid decline of pollinators and the deterioration of pollinator health, including impaired foraging behavior and increased susceptibility to viruses, diseases, and parasites;