



Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay  
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*Deeply rooted in native plants,  
promoting native landscapes  
through education, advocacy and  
collaborative action.*

**Testimony:** HB091, Agriculture – Neonicotinoid Pesticides – Prohibitions

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Hearing Date:** February 4, 2026

**Position:** FAVORABLE

Chair, Marc Korman; Vice Chair, Michele Guyton, and honorable members of the Committee:

Located in Southern Maryland, Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay, a 71-member chapter of the national organization Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, LTD<sup>1</sup>, strongly urges your support for this bill. Banning neonicotinoid coated seeds and controlling neonicotinoids' general use is a critical step towards preserving biodiversity in our local ecosystems to preserve the health of our treasured Chesapeake Bay for future generations.

Neonicotinoids are harmful to wildlife, including birds, bees, and other pollinators. Environment Action warns: "Our environment is more toxic to birds and bees than ever before, and neonic-coated seeds are a big part of the problem. Neonicotinoid pesticides (or neonics) poison birds, bees, and more when they are used on crops. A single pesticide-coated seed is potent enough to kill a songbird."<sup>2</sup>

The Xerces Society warns of the devastating ecological impacts of neonicotinoids and is working to reduce the use of there in both agricultural and urban areas.<sup>2</sup> They "are very toxic to pollinators, beneficial insects, and aquatic invertebrates. Their widespread use, combined with their water solubility, means that they are now often found in water and soil samples throughout the country".<sup>3</sup>

Maryland should take this opportunity to be an early adopter of prohibiting noenicotinoid pesticides by joining New York and Vermont to prohibit their use in agriculture. Other states (CA, CT, MN, NJ) are also considering similar legislation, while others prohibit its personal use.

HB091 has been carefully constructed with adequate exceptions by giving authority to the appropriate State agencies under certain circumstances. These circumstances ensure that the agricultural industry can continue functioning without financial burden.

Wildly appreciative,

*Marlene Smith*

President, Wild Ones Chesapeake Bay

<sup>1</sup> Wild Ones Natural Landscapers, LTD, a nationwide nonprofit organization with local chapters throughout the country, <https://wildones.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://environmental-action.org/articles/pesticide-coated-seeds-are-killing-wildlife/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://xerces.org/pesticides/understanding-neonicotinoids>