

**February 4, 2026**

**House Bill 91 - Agriculture - Neonicotinoid Pesticides - Prohibitions**

**Environment & Transportation Committee**

**Opposed**

Jennifer Gannon  
Gannon Family Farms  
Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to **House Bill 91**.

I am a farmer in Queen Anne's County, growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and raising hogs. The ban on neonicotinoid treated seed for corn, soybeans and wheat in House Bill 91 would directly and negatively impact my ability to operate my farm, mitigate risk, and remain economically viable.

Neonicotinoid seed treatments are an important tool on my farm. I use neonicotinoid seed treatments on 75% of my acres to protect my crops from wireworms, grubs, aphids and certain beetles. Without neonicotinoid seed treatments, I would expect to experience losses of tens of thousands of dollars.

House Bill 91 would also severely limit my access to seed. Maryland grain farmers rely on a regional and national seed market. Last year, I planted 4 different varieties of seed to meet the specific needs of each of my fields conditions. Seed companies have clearly stated they will not custom treat and distribute seed for a state with less than a half a percent of the nationwide grain acres. As a result, this bill would reduce the availability of competitively priced seed options and force me to accept whatever untreated seed happens to be available.

Neonicotinoid seed treatments also support my conservation implementation. They allow me to plant 600 acres of cover crops, and implement 800 acres of reduced tillage, and no-till by protecting vulnerable seedlings without repeated insecticide applications. Seed treatments are a targeted, preventative tool that reduces the need for later spraying. Removing them would push farmers toward older, less precise insecticides that require more frequent and higher-volume applications.

In fact, every pound of neonicotinoids removed from use would be replaced by nearly five pounds of older chemistries, increasing pesticide use rather than reducing it and accelerating pest resistance.

Neonicotinoids remain approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which is actively engaged in a multi-year scientific review of these products. Preempting that process places me as a farmer at a disadvantage to farmers in surrounding states.

House Bill 91 would increase my costs, reduce my yields, limit my seed choices, and undermine conservation practices that I rely on. **I respectfully urge the committee to oppose House Bill 91 and allow Maryland farmers to continue using proven, science-based tools to protect their crops and livelihoods.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gannon  
Gannon Family Farms  
Queen Anne's County, Maryland