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advocacy and collaborative action.  
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**Testimony: HB 91, 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:

Wild Ones Nation's Capital Region Chapter<sup>1</sup> requests your support for this bill. Banning neonicotinoid coated seeds, and controlling this pesticide's general use, is a critical step towards preserving an already very stressed environment.

Damaging Impact. Regarding neonicotinoid pesticides, "... research has now shown their devastating ecological impacts. Neonicotinoids 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>2</sup> These seeds are highly damaging to birds causing multiple severe problems even death.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, it is not clear that neonicotinoids increase crop yield or cash flow in most cases.<sup>4</sup>

Bill Safeguards. This carefully constructed bill contains 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. The bill could be improved by specifying circumstances that qualify for exemptions and requiring that the exemption be limited to the area that qualifies.

Other Jurisdictions. Although it is too late for our State to be a leader in this area, we still have an opportunity to be an early adopter. The States of NY and VT prohibit use of neonicotinoid pesticides in agriculture, others are considering it (CA, CT, MN, NJ) and others prohibit its personal use.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Broadman  
Director, Legislative Affairs

Pru Foster  
President

<sup>1</sup> Wild Ones, a nationwide nonprofit organization with local chapters throughout the country,

<sup>2</sup> <https://xerces.org/pesticides/understanding-neonicotinoids>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.birdlife.org/news/2024/10/10/neonicotinoids-harmful-to-birds-on-all-fronts/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ehn.org/neonicotinoids-may-not-boost-crop-yields-research-finds>