



New York Farm Bureau
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MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION

Senate Bill 5816 (Senator Hoylman) / Assembly Bill 7639 (Assemblyman Englebright)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, IN RELATION TO ENACTING THE BIRDS AND BEES PROTECTION ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF

Date: 5/29/2019

New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest agricultural advocacy organization, respectfully opposes this legislation. This bill would prohibit the sale or offer for sale in the State of any pesticide containing neonicotinoids, including clothianidin, imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, dinotefuran, acetamiprid, thiacloprid, nithiazine, or fipronil.

Neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides that have been specifically formulated to control harmful agricultural pest infestations on a wide variety of crops grown in New York, including fruits and vegetables. Many times, these products are the only products that work to control crop damages from pests in the fields. These products are applied by farmers and professional pesticide applicators in accordance with detailed instructions on the pesticide label issued by manufacturers in accordance with applicable federal and state environmental laws and regulations. Moreover, neonics are only applied as part of an integrated pest management (IPM) program employing a systematic approach to managing pests that utilizes a diversity of management options to minimize health, environmental and economic risks and impacts.

In addition, pesticides may not be used or applied in New York, unless the product has been duly registered for use with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, after considerable scientific review. EPA is also currently conducting a periodic registration review of neonicotinoids.

Bee health is dependent on a number of variables, including proper hive management, parasites, disease and loss of habitat, in addition to pesticide exposure. In the Northeast U.S., including New York, the primary honey bee stressor has been scientifically shown to be the varroa mite, not neonicotinoids. <https://cals.cornell.edu/news/ny-honeybees-stung-hard-varroa-mite-researchers-find/>.

For these reason, New York Farm Bureau respectfully requests your opposition to this legislation.