

Dear Secretary, Tebbetts,

We the members of the Senate Agricultural Committee petition you to seek guidance from your Agricultural Innovation Board regarding the establishment of integrated pest management criteria for the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds in Vermont.

The Agricultural Innovation Board should seek input from the beekeeping community and Dairy farmers who currently utilize this technology. We recommend the Ag. Innovation Board utilize a scientific advisory panel or sub-committee of the board to inform these deliberations. The board should be informed by the monitoring data the Agency has collected over the years as well as research being carried out by the University of Vermont's Extension as well as current data on pollinator health.

The following principles of Integrated Pest Management Should be taken into Consideration;

- establishment of threshold levels of pest pressure;
- economic impact;
- human toxicity to humans, animals, insects and other biota;
- surveillance and monitoring techniques;
- ways to reduce pest harborage and their impact on conservation tillage practices; and,
- criteria for a system of approval.

We have taken considerable testimony about this controversial topic this legislative session and have a bill in committee to act upon, but we are willing to allow the newly formed Agricultural Innovation Board to take on, as the board was designed to be a place for this type of public discourse to occur. It is our understanding that the Vermont Pesticide Council was previously tasked with providing the Agency direction on this topic and was reluctant to act. With this letter we ask that you direct the newly formed Agricultural Innovation Board to take on the task and have further discussion about the need for and establishment of best management practices for the use of neonicotinoid treated seed in Vermont.

Regards.