

NJGIC Member Alert (Neonic)

SPRING IS HERE AND SO IS A CALL TO ACTION TO SAVE NEONICS

As we continue to represent the interests of New Jersey's professional applicators in negotiations to keep neonicotinoid insecticides available as an important tool, we have come to a point where it is the actions of New Jersey residents, workers, and business owners that will carry the most weight.

It is important to remember that we are not looking to stop this bill or vote it down. We are looking to amend the bill in order to allow for the continued use by trained licensed applicators in New Jersey. We feel that the legislation as written goes above and beyond what is currently agreed upon by science and unfairly discriminates against New Jersey's Green Industry, while allowing continued unchecked use in agriculture and specified home uses.

We have been working with GCSAA and NALP to craft email campaigns that will quickly and easily let your local legislators know this is a topic you are concerned about. These links are shared below and I urge you to take a minute and fill out the form of the message that best relates to your business. You may also receive the link directly through a national association if you are registered on their mailing list.

To start the campaign, we are targeting our message to a short list of Assembly Members who we feel have the most influence regarding the issue. These are leaders in the Assembly who need to know that neonics are an important tool and removing access to these materials is both bad for business and will not have the environmental effects legislators have been promised.

If you are willing to go above and beyond for your Industry, please directly contact your local legislator and tell them in person (or from a safe social distance via phone or virtually) why this bill as written does not work for the Green Industry. The list of targeted legislators, their contact information and district, as well as a list of talking points can be found below.

The current email links will only work if you live or work within one of the targeted members' districts. Once we feel our message is getting heard, we will open the email campaign to reach all members of the State Assembly, where the bill will next be up for a vote. I urge everyone to at least take the time to fill out one of the email campaigns. Your actions will make the difference in deciding if neonics will be used in New Jersey moving forward.

If you have any questions, please reach out to NJGIC's Executive Director Buddy Freund at buddy@njgic.org. Thank you as always for your support.

Best,

Keith Bennett, CGCS
President, NJGIC