

## **New York Farmers and Green Industry Partners Ask Governor Hochul to Veto S.1856-A (Hoylman-Sigal) / A.7460 (Glick)**

December 18, 2023

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
New York State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of the undersigned, we write to express our serious concerns with S.1856-A (Hoylman-Sigal) /A.7640 (Glick) and request your veto of this legislation. New York's dairy farmers, corn and soybean growers, vegetable producers, golf course superintendents, professional landscapers, and certified crop advisors, would be put at a severe disadvantage if this legislation were to be signed into law.

The agricultural, golf, specialty, and business coalition opposed to this legislation has conveyed our concerns, made itself available for questions and information, and even proposed alternative concepts and amendatory language given the serious impact and unworkability of the existing bill. The legislation, as drafted, is poorly crafted, technically deficient and almost impossible to implement by state agencies.

Furthermore, as we have noted in previous correspondence, seed treatments play a critical role in agriculture and the production of healthy crops, and climate resilient farming practices. Farmers rely on seed coating technology to protect their seeds and crops from pest damage and disease. Coating seeds with a small amount of pesticides prior to planting protects them when they are most vulnerable to disease and insects. In New York's condensed growing season, the risk of crop failure due to pests and the inability to replant can drastically impact a farmer's tight margins and yield. Minimum tillage systems and cover cropping, both of which are increasingly promoted by the Department of Agriculture and Markets are important techniques used by New York farmers to mitigate climate change. These practices allow for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and improve erosion and soil health.

Neonicotinoids are an important tool for controlling insects in various non-agricultural settings, including in and around homes, golf courses, green spaces, businesses, sports fields, and on turf. When used according to label instructions, neonicotinoid products can be used safely by applicators, and they offer unique benefits that make them ideal tools for addressing certain pest problems and as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. For example, neonicotinoids are selective and often require low use rates to achieve sufficient pest control, which reduces both environmental and human exposure. Given that New York continues to play host to major PGA and Ryder Cup golf tournaments, this legislation threatens our standing as a premier location for high quality golf courses and experiences.

Neonicotinoids represent one of the most significant advances in insecticide technology in recent history and are among the safest pesticides for people and the environment, hence their widespread adoption.

Initially registered as a reduced risk pesticide, neonicotinoids are a vital invasive species control solution and serve as agricultural tools that protect a wide variety of New York crops.

As we have communicated to your staff previously, we are certainly willing to continue conversations on the bill. However, failing any reasonable resolution to the bill language to address our collective industries' concerns, we respectfully request a veto of this bill.

Sincerely,

Albany County Farm Bureau

Allegany County Farm Bureau

A. Ooms and Sons

Almstead Tree, Shrub and Lawn Care

American Seed Trade Association

Apex Farms, LLC

Bartlett Tree Experts

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

Cantine Veterans Sports Complex

Capital District Golf Club Association

Cayuga County Farm Bureau

Central Turf and Irrigation Supply

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau

Chemung County Farm Bureau

Childstock Farms Inc.

Columbia County Farm Bureau

Cortland County Farm Bureau

CropLife America

Delaware County Farm Bureau

Douglas Adams, Entomologist

Doyle Vineyard Management

Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations

Empire State Potato Growers Inc

Erie County Farm Bureau

Franklin County Farm Bureau

Fulton County Farm Bureau

Growmark FS

Jefferson County Farm Bureau  
Lewis County Farm Bureau  
Landscape Contractors Association of Long Island  
Lewis County Farm Bureau  
Lo Nan Farm  
Long Island Farm Bureau  
Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Long Island Nursery & Landscape Association  
Madison County Farm Bureau  
Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Michael Bellantoni, Jr., CLP, CLT  
Montgomery County Farm Bureau  
Mountain Vista Farms, LLC  
New York Apple Association  
New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association  
New York Farm Bureau  
New York Maple Producers Association  
NY Pest Management Association  
New York State Arborists/ISA Chapter  
New York State Chemistry Council  
New York State Agribusiness Association  
New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association  
New York State Green Industry Council  
New York State Horticultural Society  
New York State Maple Producers Association  
New York State Nursery and Landscape Association  
New York State Turfgrass Association  
New York State Vegetable Growers Association  
Niagara County Farm Bureau  
Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance  
Northeast Dairy Producers Association  
Oneida County Farm Bureau  
Ontario County Farm Bureau

Orange County Farm Bureau

Oswego County Farm Bureau

Otsego County Farm Bureau

Primo Landscape Design

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment

Seneca County Farm Bureau

Saratoga County Farm Bureau

Schoharie County Farm Bureau

Schuyler County Farm Bureau

Seneca County Farm Bureau

Simmons Vineyard

Steuben County Farm Bureau

Greg Stanley, Golf Course Superintendent, The Bridge, Bridgehampton, NY

Tompkins County Farm Bureau

TruGreen

T and S Crop Service

Vine Enterprise

Yates County Farm Bureau