



Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
8 Doolittle Road
Preston, CT 06365



www.irejn.org
info@irejn.org



860.595-2321

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RE: SB 9, An Act Concerning the Environment, Climate, and Sustainable Municipal and State Planning and the Use of Neonicotinoids and Second Generation Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides.

Dear Senator Lopes, Rep Parker, Senator Hochadel, Rep. Bumgartner, and esteemed members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of *SB 9, An Act Concerning the Environment, Climate, and Sustainable Municipal and State Planning and the Use of Neonicotinoids and Second Generation Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides.*

The interreligious Eco-Justice Network is a faith-based environmental organization that works with religious communities in Connecticut on environmental issues, such as climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

IREJN supports SB 009, with two suggestions. We recommend that the Environment Committee replace the language regarding neonicotinoids and second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides with the language in HB 6915, An Act Concerning the Use of Second-Generation Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides and HB 6916, An Act Concerning the Use of Neonicotinoids. IREJN submitted written testimony and testified in support of both bills; the language in both bills is stronger and provides more protection to wildlife and the environment.

IREJN supports measures to increase climate resiliency in our communities, especially ones at high risk of flooding. Climate change has been politicized, but there is nothing political about extreme weather. The August 18-19 flood in southwestern CT not only destroyed homes, businesses, and roads, but also resulted

in the tragic deaths of two people. The federal government will not take action to protect CT residents from climate change, so the state must take the lead.

SB 9 will help Connecticut prepare and adapt to climate change by allowing the development of climate resiliency districts and prioritizing development in areas with less climate risk. Climate change has been politicized, but it is here and Connecticut must plan for it.

Please pass SB 09 with our recommendations on neonicotinoids and rodenticides. Thank you for your time.

Very best regards,

Terri Eickel, Executive Director