



Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

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August 28, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12244

Re: **Veto Request - S.5957(Harckham)/A.5949 (Burdick)**
Application of Pesticides to Local Freshwater Wetlands

Dear Governor Hochul,

The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance (NEAFA), the trade association representing the agribusiness community throughout New York and New England, opposes the above referenced legislation, and urges your veto.

If enacted, this bill would empower certain local governments to adopt a local law or ordinance prohibiting the application of pesticides to wetlands they regulate, except those being used for the control of invasive species.

Under current law, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) allows New York to conduct its pesticide program through cooperative agreements with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Pesticide use in New York is strictly regulated to ensure public health and the environment are protected. New York's pesticide program is administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) under the authority of, and in alignment with Federal EPA regulations and is one of the most rigorous in the country.

If enacted, this bill would undermine the integrity of DEC's regulatory program, which is based on extensive scientific review and submission of supporting data by causing inconsistent rules based on the decisions of local governments, which in most cases do not have the expertise needed to make such decisions. To ensure that the current high quality, consistent program continues, regulation should remain with the DEC which has both the capacity and expertise to regulate usage safely.

For these reasons, the Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance opposes this legislation and urges you to once again veto this bill.

Sincerely,

Jenny H. Mills

Jenny Mills

President, Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance

CC: Kevin King
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Assemblymember Christopher Burdick
Senator Pete Harekham