Dear members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I write to you as member of the Pemi-Baker Beekeepers Association in Ashland, NH, regarding a provision of HB 1698, relative to the use of drones for the aerial application of pesticides.

Under current law, aerial application of pesticide requires state Department of Agriculture approval and notification of neighbors. HB 1698 would remove the requirement for state approval and notification of neighbors.

I respectfully ask that you consider amending this bill to retain the neighbor notification requirement that is currently in state law. In this way, we could seek to protect our bees while spraying is occurring.

Pesticides can be deadly for honey bees and other pollinators like bumble bees and butterflies. Pollinators are essential for New Hampshire's agricultural industry and for the environment in general.

What would be the harm of continuing to require notification of neighbors?  Please consider amending HB 1698.

Sincerely,