

**May 10, 2024** - The New Hampshire Beekeepers Association (NHBA) is urging the public to voice their concerns to Governor Sununu regarding HB1698, which is scheduled to go before him for signature and demand he veto this extremely flawed bill. The association is particularly troubled by the provision in the bill that would exempt pesticide applicators, using aerial drone technology, from the obligation currently mandated by law to notify beekeepers and the public of such applications.

NHBA has no issue with the studied and proven safe and effective use of drone technology for pesticide application. However, the association strongly believes that transparency and public awareness are essential when it comes to aerial spraying of pesticides. This notification requirement ensures that beekeepers can take action to protect their bees and citizens can take necessary precautions to protect themselves, their families, and pets.

"We are not opposed to the responsible and study-based use of aerial drone technology for pesticide application," said MaryEllen McKeen, President of NHBA. "However, we firmly believe that transparency and public notification must remain integral components of pesticide management practices and law when applied aurally. Beekeepers and the public currently have a legal right to know when and where pesticides are being applied in their communities from the air. Without notification we cannot protect our bees and keep them safe."

NHBA is calling on concerned citizens to contact Governor Sununu and urge him to veto HB 1698. The association emphasizes the importance of maintaining transparency and public trust in pesticide management practices to safeguard human health, environmental integrity, and honeybee and native pollinator populations.

For more information or to sign the 30-second action plan, please visit:

<https://www.nhbeekeepers.org/news/tell-the-governor-to-protect-nh-families-and-pollinators-from-pesticide-exposures--oppose-hb-1698-fn>

### **About NHBA:**

The New Hampshire Beekeepers Association (NHBA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the importance of honeybees and advocating for the well-being of beekeepers across the state. NHBA provides education, resources, and support to beekeepers of all levels and actively engages in efforts to protect pollinator populations and their habitats.