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Education Committee  
Testimony of Martin Mador  
In Support of  
RB 7096 AAC Pesticide Applications at Schools and  
the Use of Environmentally Sensitive Cleaning and Maintenance Products in Schools  
February 13, 2007

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT. I am the legislative and political chair for Ct. Sierra Club. I am here today on behalf of the 12,000 Sierra members who live in Connecticut. Sierra is the nation's oldest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. I am also here as the legislative co-chair for the Connecticut Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools. Professionally, I conduct research in architecture at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. I am a US Green Building Council LEED accredited professional.

ConnFESS has worked for the past few years to promote healthy and toxin-free school facilities. In doing so, we protect the health of both our children and teachers, and create environments which maximize the learning potential of our students. Sierra is pleased, along with other state environmental organizations, to join with ConnFESS in their campaign to ensure that Connecticut's schools are healthy places for our children to learn and grow.

PB 7096 would extend the protections already in place for elementary school children to those in middle and high schools. Pesticides, chemicals designed and marketed specifically for their lethal qualities, have been shown in numerous studies to have detrimental effects on humans as well. Growing children are particularly susceptible to environmental toxins. Minimizing unnecessary risks to their health is certainly prudent and appropriate. Organic alternatives are now widely available, further diminishing the need to intentionally expose our children to these toxic compounds. Previous legislation has allowed appropriate application of pesticides where necessary. Employment in the industry should not be affected, as application of safe alternatives has similar labor requirements.

This bill calls for the creation of DPH regulations specifying safe cleaning and maintenance products for schools. These regulations will help schools develop an Indoor Air Quality plan, as required by PA 03-220, which will effectively protect school children and teachers from exposure to harmful products. Similar regulations are now in place across the country. New York state, for example, requires green cleaning products in schools.

Attached to my testimony is a Guide to Green Cleaning published by the Healthy Schools Network, which contains background information, examples of green products, and references to other states' practices and resources. I also refer you to my colleague Diane Ethier's testimony today, which has valuable guidance on specifying the significant components to be contained in these new regulations.