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Public Health Committee  
March 6, 2009  
Testimony of Martin Mador  
In Support of  
HB 6597 An Act Concerning Pesticide Applications at Child Day Care Facilities  
HB 6616 An Act Establishing Wood Smoke to Be a Public Nuisance  
In Opposition to  
HB 6539 An Act Concerning Environmental Health

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the Legislative and Political Chair of the Connecticut Sierra Club, and am here today representing our 10,000 Connecticut members concerned about the health of our environment, our economic prosperity, and our quality of life. I possess a Master's of Environmental Management degree from Yale.

HB 6597 extends the ban on pesticide applications on school grounds to day care centers. As younger children are the most susceptible to these toxins, it is imperative that we protect them as we now do for children in grades eight and below.

HB 6616 adds smoke from wood furnaces to the list of toxins that we intentionally introduce into our environment. The debilitating effects caused by inhaling this smoke are well documented. While someone may not intend to cause harm by wood burning, the effects on a nearby neighbor can be severe. This bill will give DPH the authorization to declare such emissions a public nuisance.

HB 6539 removes the requirement that DPH set permissible exposure levels for radon. Radon is known to be a causative agent of cancer. While safe levels have proven difficult to set, it is not in the best interests of the state that, after almost 20 years, DPH now be permitted to ignore the hazards of air- and water-borne radon in schools.