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Governor M. Jodi Rell
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

June 22, 2007

re: Healthy Schools

Dear Governor Rell;

Let me express the appreciation of the 10,000 Connecticut Sierra Club members, the CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools (ConnFESS), and the entire environment community, for your very public support of the School Pesticide Bill last Monday. We are all grateful for your recognition of this as an important step in proactively protecting the health of our growing children.

You may recall a very brief conversation after the Pesticide bill signing last Monday about the immediate need to address a school Indoor Air Quality issue, in which I promised to forward the necessary information to you. In conducting our advocacy work over the past five years, ConnFESS has found that there are serious shortcomings in the efforts of state agencies to address issues of indoor environmental quality in the state's schools. There is an issue now which is in need of immediate attention. The enclosed letter to Commissioner McQuillan explains the problem of inadequate and misleading reporting of IAQ school conditions, required pursuant to PA 03-220. As the faulty biennial reporting forms which have created the problem have just been distributed to districts for the next round, we are again on track to producing an SDE report on schools which cannot accomplish its mission.

We request that your office work with the Commissioner to immediately address this problem.

In general, we believe that school IAQ issues have not been given adequate support by state agencies, and would welcome the opportunity to work together with you to bring this situation to the attention to the Commissioners of SDE, DPH, and DEP.

Thank you for expressed concern for the health of our state's children. We look forward to further communications.

Sincerely,

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