



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 2, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

Raised Senate Bill 1020 "An Act Concerning Pesticide Applications at Child Day Care Centers and Schools"

Section 2 of this bill would extend to July 1, 2010, from 2009, the sunset date for municipalities to continue to be allowed to utilize integrated pest management (IPM) programs.

IPM has been required for three years now in Connecticut and has been successful. IPMs are structured as a comprehensive management plan for grounds maintenance and upkeep. They focus on a thorough understanding of pests and pest biology by pest managers; careful inspection and monitoring for pest presence and pest-conducive conditions; pest prevention through effective education, sanitation and facility maintenance; and a restrictive treatment plan as a last resort. Such treatment plans call for the use of pesticides only when non-chemical measures have not been able to eradicate the problem and even then products are selected that minimize toxicity and potential for exposure.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "recommends that schools use IPM to reduce pesticide risks and exposure to children" and that it is a "safer" and "less costly option for pest management in a school community." The EPA plan calls for all schools to utilize IPM by 2012.

It is also important to note, for those who feel that "organic" is a better way to go, that the organic industry is not regulated - whereas the pesticide industry is highly regulated - and, just because something is organic does not mean it is not toxic. The use of IPMs on any grounds provides a greater guaranty of safety and reduces the risk of toxic exposure significantly.

In addition, it is important to understand the costs associated with replacement, resodding, or reseeding the grounds that this bill covers can be upwards of \$25,000 per ¼ acre. That does not even take into consideration the liability that is inherent in improperly maintained fields filled with gopher holes; soft spots from grub infestation; and bare spots from erosion.

A coalition was formed several years ago around this issue between municipal officials and local park and recreation staff in support of the continued use of IPM. We strongly urge the committee to **remove the sunset date and the use of IPMs be continued and required** - *short of this, the sunset date should be postponed until at least July 1, 2011* in order for the Department of Environmental Protection to thoroughly evaluate and comment on the successes of this program.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, Senior Legislative Associate of
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