



CONNECTICUT RECREATION
AND PARKS ASSOCIATION

Letter of Support For HB 5418, with amendments

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Environment Committee:

Please favorably report HB 5418, with the following amendments:

- **amend 10-231b(b)(1) by deleting the words: "on and after January 1, 2006 until July 1, 2010"**
- **expand mandated IPM to the grounds of all schools, parks and grounds**

This bill and amendments will **maintain the status quo**, which currently allows pesticides as part of an IPM program, as well as protect the safety of our communities' children and the taxpayers' investments in these facilities.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is both a methodology and a philosophy. At its core, it strives to **protect the earth and its inhabitants** while at the same time maintaining the safety and quality of our developed grounds and fields. The underlying focus of IPM is to **always use the least toxic, yet practical, method** to care for turf and trees; whenever feasible, non-toxic methods are employed, whether they be organic, synthetic, cultural or mechanical. The IPM program, as developed and established by the CT DEP, has **many controls in place** to ensure its proper and safe implementation, including **licensing and documentation**.

Our association represents the directors of Parks & Recreation from nearly all 169 towns and cities in Connecticut. As the **professionals tasked with caring for most grounds** throughout the state, including schools in many cases, the members of our association are **respected stewards of the environment**. Many of our members are either **already using organics** to some extent, or looking at ways to experiment with and incorporate organics into their existing maintenance routines; not because of any legislation, but because they believe it is the right thing to do and can **benefit their communities**.

In Colchester, we have been using organic fertilizers for four years and have seen a significant reduction in the need for pesticides. Yet, there are no effective "organic" methods to address various turf issues. **Limited use of pesticides as part of a well-defined IPM program are simply a necessary tool of turf care**. In the last year, many of our fields became infested with grubs. Had pesticides been banned, we would have lost these fields.

Submitted by: Jason Cohen, CPRP (Certified Parks & Recreation Professional)
CRPA Treasurer; Director of Colchester Parks & Recreation

Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) is a non-profit 501 (C)(3) organization dedicated to the promotion, development, and improvement of all recreation and parks services within the State of Connecticut. CRPA has approximately 700 members, who represent almost all 169 towns in Connecticut.