



OPPOSED For Raised Bill 5121

An Act Concerning the Use of Organic Pesticides on School Property and Authorizing Municipal Regulations Of The Use Of Pesticides On Residential Property

To: The Honorable Senator Meyer, Co-Chair, The Honorable Richard Roy Co-Chair, The Honorable Andrew Maynard, Vice Chair and The Honorable Philip Miller, The Honorable Senator Roraback and The Honorable Clark Chapin and members of the Environment Committee.

The Connecticut Pest Control Association OPPOSES Raised Bill 5121, An Act Concerning The Use Of Organic Pesticides On School Property And Authorizing Municipal Regulations Of The Use Of Pesticides On Residential Property.

We oppose authorizing municipalities to regulate the use of pesticides on residential property.

Patchwork of Regulation Jeopardizes Health, Safety and our Business Environment

The state must maintain usage for vector controls, pest management and keeping our public spaces healthy. When pesticide regulations are left to local government there is no coordination among adjoining jurisdictions or coexisting jurisdictions such as city and town governments. Pesticide applicators such as pest control and lawn care professionals operate across multiple jurisdictions crossing government boundaries, sometimes frequently, during a typical work day. Pesticide applicators are accustomed to complying with state laws and regulations. Learning about state pesticide laws and regulations are part of their training and licensing from the state. A patch work of local regulation would cause market place confusion and an enforcement "nightmare" for local governments. Regulating pesticides at the municipal level would be cumbersome for professional applicators.

The Department of Energy & Environment regulates the labeling, use and registration of pesticides.

Municipalities do not have the staff, financial resources, or the expertise to regulate pesticides. The DEEP has the scientific resources and knowledgeable staff that work daily to ensure the safety and well-being of the public and the environment.

The Majority of States Have Pesticide Preemption

Connecticut has had a long standing statute and tradition of state pesticide preemption. Pesticide regulation falls under a state's general law of concern. It affects public interest rather than merely just local interests, and is therefore, a statewide concern.

Thoughtful use of pesticides is important to the well-being of Connecticut's citizens.

The safe and responsible use of pesticides reduces public health risks from disease carrying insects such as ticks and mosquitoes and noxious weed pests and invasive weed pests such as poison ivy, ragweed and bittersweet.

Sincerely,

Heather Millette
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