

To Senator Ed Meyer, Richard Roy and Members of the Environment Committee,

I am emailing to you that the Town of Roxbury Inland Wetlands Commission supports Bill No. 5121. Our commission has the expertise and resources to assess appropriate local use of pesticides more precisely than state authorities. This is important to Roxbury because we have a town that depends on wells for our only source of drinking water. Just as important, the citizens of our town have historically supported "green" controls of plants and pest rather than using chemical controls in our waterways and wetlands. This bill provides for local jurisdiction for an issue that should be governed by the local population.

Lawn -care" pesticides are our main interest. We recently amended our regulations to prohibit the use of lawn care pesticides within 25 feet of any wetland or watercourse. Although it may not be legal, that regulation revision has not been challenged. We also send fliers to any applicant that obtains a permit from DEEP for a herbicide application. That flier provides information to the applicant to provide educational information regarding less environmentally damaging methods to control plant growth and pests in and near wetlands.

Local commissions are much better equipped to handle pesticide permits than the DEEP because we know the local landscape and the local citizens' desires regarding environmental issues. This bill, if passed, would result in better protection for human health and the environment while still allowing the use of pesticides in the appreciate conditions.

Thank you for your time.

Russell J. Dirienzo, P.G., LEP –Selectman and Chairman of the Inland Wetlands
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