



**Testimony of John P. Murphy and the Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
on behalf of SB 254, AN ACT RESTRICTING THE APPLICATION  
OF FERTILIZERS THAT CONTAIN PHOSPHATE**

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, members of the committee – my name is John Murphy and on behalf of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group’s 20,000 plus member families, I am here today to testify in favor of SB 254.

Phosphates in lawn fertilizers accelerates the process by which a body of water becomes overloaded in dissolved nutrients that stimulate the growth of aquatic plant life usually resulting in the depletion of dissolved oxygen, known as eutrophication. This results in massive blooms of aquatic plants, both native and invasive.

A study prepared by the UCONN Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and sponsored by DEP’s Bureau of Water Management with a grant from the U.S. EPA Clean Lakes Program in 2000 concluded if Coventry Lake became unsafe for swimming and fishing, lake association property values would drop by 43 percent and drop the entire town’s Grand list value by 6 per cent.

Coventry is near the tipping point of 20 parts per billion of phosphorus for eutrophication with 15 ppb in 2010, reported in a study by the Coventry Lake Environmental Action Network. As a Coventry resident, I am concerned about heading off the problem now before we are dealing with the problems that the Bolton Lakes are enduring.

Residents of Bolton and Vernon who live on the lakes are reporting that in some areas they cannot swim anymore due to invasive aquatic plants that are taking over rapidly, with phosphates being one of the reasons. Today you have heard of other lakes suffering from the same problems.

SB254 should ban the use of phosphates in lawn fertilizers used in watersheds. Property owners on lakes should also be encouraged to reduce the size of lawns by planting shrubs and trees. This will discourage waterfowl from landing on the lawns and spreading phosphates and invasive plants into our lakes. Thank you.

**CONNECTICUT CITIZEN ACTION GROUP**

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