

Written Testimony of

Scott Ramsay, Legislative Chair

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

~~HB 5155~~ 5/21

Environment Committee

March 16, 2012

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator Roraback, Representative Chapin and the members of the Environment Committee. My name is Scott Ramsay, I'm the Legislative Chair of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I submit testimony today on ~~HB 5155~~, to support ~~Safe Management Practices for School Grounds and State Only Jurisdiction for Pesticide Regulations~~. I represent a group of turf professionals who are also Connecticut citizens and parents; they are concerned with failing sports fields and eliminating a time proven pesticide approval and administrative process.

Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring and it is considered a foundational work for saving the environment. One of the themes in this book is looking for other options before a pesticide spray instead of a spray first program. It precedes an IPM style philosophy. Several times in the book she also states that there are times when pesticides are necessary. We now have environmentally derived products that do not linger or move in the environment. Safe Management Practices are a safe and viable management tool for turf professionals.

The current system of a State Only Jurisdiction for Pesticide Regulations is a pragmatic, efficient and time proven process that works and should be maintained. The EPA is rigorously testing every product before it can reach the market and has established a scientific review process that weeds out any materials that would harm the environment. Once all of the researchers, reviewers and agencies have scientific data approving each product will it then be eligible for the market and further review and approval by the Connecticut DEEP. It is a painfully slow and tedious process, but it is working. The CT DEEP has stated that it would like the State only jurisdiction to continue. Towns in Connecticut do not have the resources to administrate a local plan and should focus on services and education. Most states maintain a State Only Jurisdiction for Pesticide Regulations.

Thank you for your time and your public service.