

For the Hearing on March 16, 2012

To Senator Meyer, Richard Roy and Members of the Environment Committee,
As First Selectman of the Town of North Haven I write in support of Bill 5121. However, our town only supports the section of Bill 5121 that relates to restoring to our town the ability to have stricter lawn-care pesticide methods than the state.

We do not want jurisdiction over all of residential pesticide uses - only lawn-care pesticide uses - as I understand this Bill was originally designed to address.

Usually the Federal government sets minimum standards for the country and then state laws can be stricter - not less strict - and town laws can be stricter than the state - but not less strict. The tobacco and pesticides industries have somehow managed to flip this - and now, with the preemption law in place in Connecticut, no town can have stricter lawn-care pesticide laws than the state - not the other way around - as laws are intended.

A study done in the town of Woodbridge in 1999 found that of the 53 private drinking water wells tested for pesticides 11% actually had pesticides in them. Some of the wells with pesticides were deep wells and some of the contaminated wells were owned by people who did not use pesticides.

This study showed that if lawn-care pesticides are used in one part of a town - they can show up in the drinking water wells in any other part of a town.

Our town would like to have restored to it the option of having the lawn-care methods that are best for our town - and that our town's people and council agrees are best for our town. That should be the right of each town. We are in support of the section of the Bill that would restore to our town the ability to have the lawn-care methods that are best for our town -- as long as they are always stricter - never less strict - than the state..

Sincerely,

Mike Freda, First Selectman, Town of North Haven

March 12, 2012