



Connecticut Chapter
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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Environment Committee
March 7, 2012

Testimony In Support of
SB 254 AA Restricting The Application Of Fertilizers That Contain Phosphate
HB 5116 AA Requiring The Labeling Of Food Packaging That Contains Bisphenol-a

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club-Connecticut Chapter. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

SB 254

This bill simply provides that phosphate not be applied to established lawns, not to any lawn from Nov. 15 through April 1, and not in immediate proximity to a water body.

Phosphorus is as problematic to fresh water as is nitrogen is to Long Island Sound. Excess phosphorus encourages rapid growth of aquatic plant life, degrading water quality and choking off the water column.

I have taken my canoe and kayak to lakes which were choked by excessive plant growth. It was simply not possible to paddle; the lakes had lost all recreational value for boating.

Avoiding applying phosphorus to lawns which no longer need it, or in winter months when it will not promote lawn growth, is sound environmental policy. It will help keep our lakes and ponds healthy and accessible.

HB 5116

This legislature has in recent years passed a number of measures to protect us from harmful chemicals. With the continuing failure of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), we must continue to look to the states for effective measures.

The accumulated evidence clearly shows that exposure to Bisphenol-A has serious medical implications, and that it should be avoided. We began that process three years ago with the passage of HB 6571, Public Act No. 09-103, limiting exposure to children, but exposure to BPA otherwise will continue. This bill simply requires package labeling. It is right-to-know legislation. It will allow someone who wishes to avoid any contact with the chemical to do so. Without the labeling requirement, this would not be possible. This bill imposes no onerous requirement, and deserves to be passed.