



**Testimony of
Barbara Henry, First Selectman, Town of Roxbury
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Planning & Development Committee
February 22, 2012**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) strongly supports HB-5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Numerous towns throughout Connecticut have expressed to COST that their athletic fields, fence lines and school grounds simply cannot be maintained adequately and safely due to current restrictions on the use of integrated pest management (IPM) plans.

HB-5155's common-sense approach modifies the ban on pesticide applications on school grounds. The bill ensures that towns have the flexibility to both protect the safety of student athletes and protect their considerable investment in developing fields and grounds.

Under IPM, an "environmentally sensitive approach" according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, no action is taken to control pests or weeds until certain action thresholds are met, including determining whether insects, weeds or other living organisms are truly harmful. IPM is economical, practical, and stresses prevention. IPM also helps protect the considerable investment that towns make in developing and maintaining school grounds and athletic fields. COST therefore *strongly supports* **HB-5155**.