



## BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS

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Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair:

My name is Douglas Williams from Easton Ct. I have been an Arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts for 27 years and am currently President of Connecticut Tree Protection Association, a group of 800 Arborists founded in 1922.

I'm here to support Planning and Development Committee Hearing House Bill 5155.

I have been an ardent supporter of IPM (Intragregated Pest Management) for 20 years and have encouraged the students in the classes I teach, my clients, other professionals and the Legislators all to embrace IPM.

In my professional opinion there is no need for a ban on pesticides at any location if IPM principals are followed. It's not only me but also the EPA, our own DEEP. Uconn and even The CT Experiment Station that all have supported the use of IPM as a management tool.

In fact the Legislature including The Environment Committee a few years ago supported funding a position within Deep's pesticide division for an IPM coordinator. This should not come as a surprise because all of the governmental and scientific groups who are knowledgeable about pesticides have recommended the IPM approach.

IPM incorporates many forms of controlling pests including but not limited to pesticide use. In fact it is the choice of last resort. Often cultural practices, mechanical measures and site improvements are all that is requires for controlling many pests. However there are some cases where applications may be the best and safest and most cost efficient choice. There is no need to ban these natural, organic and synthetic products altogether.

In fact the ban eliminates all pesticides including "organic" natural, bio-rational and synthetic forms. I believe this was one of the unintended consequences of the ban. Another consequence was the burden put on schools and towns to manage fields in a prudent and cost effective way. Without the use of pesticides we have seen many fields deteriorate and the managers are faces with few options and too often only very expensive options are available.

In summary, IPM is the recommended route to go with pesticide management and regulation. It is endorsed by all the agencies that work with and are knowledge about the science of pest control. A ban is neither necessary nor warranted.