



Connecticut Environmental Council

Written Testimony  
Edward Golinowski, President

**SUPPORT for Raised Bill 5155**  
**An Act Modifying the Ban on Pesticide Applications on School Grounds**

Wednesday, February 22, 2012  
Planning & Development Committee

Good morning Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, Senator Fasano, Representative Aman and the distinguished member of the Planning & Development Committee, my name is Ed Golinowski, I am the President of the Connecticut Environmental Council (CTEC). I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in support of House Bill 5155, An Act Modifying the Ban on Pesticide Applications on School Grounds.

CTEC is a membership organization representing associations and professionals. Our membership includes the Connecticut Groundskeepers Association, the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, the Connecticut Pest Control Association, the Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association, the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association.

During the 2005 session, CTEC supported legislation that permitted lawn care pesticides to be applied to public and private schools 8<sup>th</sup> grade or under if the applications adhered to an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan. In addition, the schools IPM plan must be consistent with DEEP's Model Pest Control Management Plan. From January 1, 2006 until the July 1, 2010 sunset school grounds were well maintained under this program.

In the way of background, state law defines IPM as "the judicious use of pesticides to maintain a pest population at or below an acceptable level, while decreasing the use of pesticides." As a result of IPM's judicious methods of applying lawn care pesticides, over the four years of the pilot program tons of active ingredients were withheld from use on school grounds. During the pilot, the IPM approach has proven to be safe, reliable and affordable way of applying lawn care pesticides, while protecting the financial investment towns have made in athletic fields and school grounds.

Since the July 1, 2010 sunset of middle school athletic fields and school grounds have fallen into complete disrepair with pest populations growing out of control making athletic fields unplayable. Attached to my testimony are two pictures of a middle school baseball field in West Haven. Under the IPM pilot program this athletic field was well maintained and used by many different teams during the year. The second picture was taken just 12 months after the ban. This field is unplayable. Students from this school are now playing there games on a park and recreations field which is not subject to the ban. Unfortunately this example is being repeated in just about every town in the state.

You will hear opponents of this legislation state, that there are cost effective and successfully ways to maintain school grounds and athletic fields without the use of pesticides. If this were true you would not see examples such as the West Haven field all over the state. Town would be availing themselves of those methods, unfortunately they don't exist.

In conclusion, the use of pesticides under an IPM plan to maintain school grounds is supported by scientific experts within our state as well as the U.S. EPA which recommends "that all schools use IPM to reduce pesticides risks and exposure to children. Put simply, IPM is a safer and frequently less costly option for effective pest management in a school community." The EPA plan calls for IPM in all schools in the United States by 2015. With Connecticut's ban on pesticides we are way out-of bounds on this issue letting pest populations grow unchecked on school grounds.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, I'd be glad to answer any questions you may have at this time.



Connecticut Environmental Council

## Before the Ban on Pesticides



## After the Ban on Pesticides

