

The Watershed Partnership, Inc.

February 22, 2012

To: Members of the Planning and Development Committee:
Subject: Concerning opposition to Bill 5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Board of Directors

Honorable Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

President
Rick Mayer

It is appalling to even consider involuntarily exposing children to toxic lawn pesticides at school. The risks of these toxic chemicals to children are been well established. They are included in a fact sheet that accompanies my testimony.

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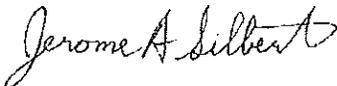
The substitution of "Integrated Pest Management" in place of the pesticide ban is a subterfuge of pro-pesticide interests to once again allow the full use of all toxic lawn pesticides. Groundskeepers who want IPM do not wish to cause harm. They lack appreciation of the subtle but harmful effects of toxic lawn pesticides. They do not realize what the testing of these chemicals omits, such as testing these chemicals along with the chemicals they are used with. They do not realize that it is the chemical companies that pay for and conduct the tests and choose the data they will send to the government. They do not realize that the testing for long term effects is totally inadequate and not even studied for many of the pesticide products they use. They do not realize that they themselves are at risk as a consequence of using these chemicals. I have included with my testimony letters from qualified experts who have commented on the risks of toxic lawn pesticides as well as a fact sheet that shows why IPM is basically flawed and unworkable in reality.

I have also included data and documentation that shows that pesticide-free organic turf care works and works well. Further, once the pesticide degraded soil is restored to health the costs are even less than conventional care.

Because there are documented safe, cost-effective ways to maintain school lawns and sports fields without the use of toxic chemicals, it makes no sense at all to expose children to the risks from toxic lawn pesticides.

For the sake of all of Connecticut's children I urge you to reject this bill.

Respectfully,



Jerome A. Silbert, M.D.
Executive Director
The Watershed Partnership, Inc.

See Attachments: