

**Walter, Judith**

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**From:** Blancato, Allison  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 3:04 PM  
**To:** Walter, Judith  
**Subject:** FW: Concerning opposition to Bill 5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

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**From:** Kristiane Huber  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:08 PM  
**To:** Blancato, Allison  
**Subject:** Concerning opposition to Bill 5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Dear Ms. Blancato,

Below is my testimony in opposition to Bill 5155 for the hearing tomorrow morning. I am unable to attend but would like for it to be added to the record.

Sincerely,  
Kristiane Huber

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I am writing from the classroom of the Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care, overseen by the Northeast Organic Farming Association's *Organic Land Care* Program. We are in the fourth day of the course, and the students have learned about turf management, planting, mulching, fertilizing and pest management all without the chemicals that the NOFA Standards for Organic Land Care have found to be both harmful and unnecessary.

Connecticut took the lead on toxics safety and child health regulations with the pesticide ban. The pesticides banned by P.A. 09-56 have been linked to serious health issues including, but not limited to, birth defects, behavior disorders, respiratory disease like asthma and potentially cancer. Children are especially vulnerable to these dangerous chemicals because they play in the grass and because of their smaller, developing bodies.

The pesticide ban is a law that Connecticut should be proud of. Our state has prioritized the health of children over the importance of bright green grass, and the profits of chemical companies.

Widespread non-compliance must be addressed by education and training support from programs similar to the NOFA Organic Land Care's Accreditation. More parents and families are choosing organic landscapers for their homes. To then expose their children to these harmful chemicals at school disrespects these parents' values. As awareness grows about the potential threats of lawn chemicals, one can only expect greater support for the pesticide ban in Connecticut schools.

The alternative to pesticides exists. Organic land care has been applied to sports fields, turf grass,

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parks, homes, and many types of grounds. NOFA's Accreditation Program is in its twelfth year and we have a number of accredited organic professionals with decades of experience and many successful years offering organic services. As with every sustainable practice, at first it is more difficult. Organic land care requires that land care professionals develop an understanding of the ecology of the systems they are working with, and apply these lessons to the grounds.

To address non-compliance with a law by simply eliminating the law is unthinkable. Using this standard, most new laws would need to be reversed in the first couple years that new regulations take effect. To move backwards in regards to laws protecting the health of children would be an embarrassment for Connecticut.

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Kristiane Huber  
Events & Outreach Coordinator  
Connecticut NOFA & NOFA Organic Land Care Program

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Registration is now open:  
The 2012 Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care  
[www.nafa.org/landcare/web/2012/organic-land-care-accreditation](http://www.nafa.org/landcare/web/2012/organic-land-care-accreditation)