

**Blancato, Allison**

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**From:** Lauralyn Lewis [mailto:lauralyn@oldlyme.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 10:38 PM  
**To:** Blancato, Allison  
**Subject:** House Bill 5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

Lauralyn Lewis  
2 Elm St., Old Lyme, CT 06371

February 22, 2012

**Re: House Bill 5155**

I am here today to address House Bill 5155 both as a Connecticut citizen and a member of the Old Lyme Conservation Commission. Today you will hear testimony from many professionals who are knowledgeable in the science of pesticides and can and will address the potentially adverse effects they have on the vulnerable biological systems of children.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "all pesticides are toxic to some degree, and the commonplace, widespread use of pesticides is both a major environmental problem and a public health issue".

(U.S Environmental Protection Agency, "Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment", Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances, June 1992)

I live in a town where not unlike many towns in Connecticut, we have several governing bodies that spray pesticides. Pesticides do not stay where they are applied, they move by air and water. As a town that lives along the CT River and along the LI Sound, what is sprayed effects all living things. Pesticides are designed to kill. I cannot impress upon you enough to remember the awesome responsibility you have and this includes protecting our youngest citizens. I ***do not want the state to roll back the laws on organic lawn care practices for students in our youngest grades.***

The current legislation has been an instrumental factor in providing awareness to parents and townspeople which allows them to make well informed decisions for their families. As a conservation commission member, I cannot be effective in my stewardship to the ecologically rich town of Old Lyme both in preserving its natural resources and educating the town without this important legislative statute.

We are living in a time where we are exposed to a wide variety of toxins. They can be found in food, clothing, personal care products and in lawn and garden pesticides. DDT, which of course has been banned, is still found in air samples. Are we to wait until we are unable to reverse damage done by products like DDT, or stand by the current legislation, a common sense approach? ***I implore you to discard House Bill 5155, and not roll back the laws on lawn care practices.*** Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauralyn Lewis

3/7/2012