



**Testimony of
Ralph Eno, First Selectman, Town of Lyme
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the Planning & Development Committee
February 22, 2012**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) strongly supports HB-5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

HB-5155 permits the use of integrated pest management (IPM), which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency cites as “an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices.” Pursuant to the tenets of IPM, no action is taken to control pests or weeds until certain action thresholds are met, including determining whether insects, weeds or other living organisms are truly harmful.

IPM is economical, practical, and stresses prevention. IPM also helps protect the considerable investment that towns make in developing and maintaining school grounds and athletic fields.

COST *strongly supports* **HB-5155** because it ensures the safety of student athletes and protects our towns’ considerable investment in safely developing athletic fields and school grounds.