

Walter, Judith

From: Blancato, Allison
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 1:05 PM
To: Walter, Judith
Subject: FW: Voter input: Vote against HB 5155

From: Rani Arbo <rani.arbo@connecticut.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Blancato, Allison
Subject: Voter input: Vote against HB 5155

February 21, 2012

Senator Cassano
Representative Gentile
Planning and Development Committee
Room 2100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to submit my comments on Raised H.B. No. 5155 - "AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS" that is scheduled for public hearing tomorrow, 2/22/12 in the Planning and Development Committee.

I am the mother of a school-aged child, and I am a cancer survivor. I am writing to ask that you vote AGAINST HB 5155 tomorrow.

Connecticut currently bans pesticides from school grounds. This ban was the result of sound and was strongly supported by voters in our state.

IPM and organic pest management/pesticide programs do not mix. Introducing potentially poorly-regulated IPM means treating school yards with chemicals that, yes, kill weeds and pests -- and also destroy the beneficial organisms that are presently working to keep weeds and pests at bay. It destroys the natural ecosystem of the soil; even one year of IPA can mean a long backslide for fully organic pest management, which means frustration for the schools and maintenance workers who have been doing a great job complying with the current ban and keeping our school facilities looking great.

A child's health is more important than a perfect grassy field. The chemicals used in IPA are proven to act on human systems, and you can offer no guarantee that children will be safe from them when they are applied to the school play yards and lawns they run, tumble and roll in.

Please, vote AGAINST HB 5155.

Thank you very much,

Rani Arbo

2/21/2012