



## TOWN OF KENT

TO: Members of the Planning & Development Committee

FROM: Bruce K. Adams, First Selectman of Kent

RE: HB 5155

I can unequivocally say that I am in favor of **House Bill 5155**.

Five years ago the Town of Kent spent \$30,000 to refurbish the town playing fields. Since that time we have spent additional money and time keeping the fields in good condition.

Once the subject of ridicule from visiting teams our fields are now the envy of many and our process is a model for rejuvenating fields. But now I am told that we may no longer be able to use pesticides on the turf! What do the wise folks in Hartford propose that we do to keep the infields weed free? Believe it or not I was actually told by a DEP employee to "try boiling water or a flamethrower". This of course is absurd.

There is no reason why these and all the fields across CT cannot be well maintained by an IPM from a certified agronomist. I am as concerned about children as anyone, probably more so. I taught and coached on the fields in Kent for over 30 years. For much of that time I maintained the fields too, but not with an IPM. In hindsight I see the need for such a program and support it 100%. Will it cost more? Yes, but kids will be safer and ultimately the playing surfaces will be better. The end of this program and the elimination of pesticides will return our fields to the unsafe weed farms they were.

I implore the CT Legislature to learn the facts and do what makes sense.