

Blancato, Allison

From: Colin Bennett {

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 12:19 PM

To: Blancato, Allison

Subject: Concerning opposition to Bill 5155 AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.

As a father and resident of Connecticut I was proud when my state banned pesticide use at its schools. Now the forces are trying to overturn that ban makes me sick. As such, I strongly oppose any efforts to overturn that bill.

-Colin Bennett
487 East Pond Meadow
Westbrook, Connecticut 06498

Lawn Pesticide Fact Sheet

- Of 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 19 have studies linking them with cancer, 13 are linked with birth and reproductive effects, 15 with neurotoxicity or abnormal brain development. 1
- Children are particularly susceptible because of their rapid growth and decreased ability to detoxify toxins true for the developing child in utero.
- Studies link some lawn pesticides to hyperactivity, developmental delays, behavioral disorder, and motor impairment. 2
- A Study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found that home and garden use of pesticides can increase the risk of childhood leukemia by almost seven times. 7
- The lag time between environmental exposure and the development of lymphoma can be as long as 20 years. 3
- Lawn pesticides can be tracked inside of schools where they can persist for long periods of time contaminating carpets and exposing children to these toxic chemicals even if they are not in contact with the grass. 9
- There is no provision for pesticide use if there is a condition that threatens the health and safety of the children such as an underground wasp nest or an infestation of ticks.
- There are significant gaps in the safety testing of toxic lawn pesticides. 10
- Lawn pesticides are not tested for long term toxicity unless they are also used on food crops. They are tested only a few times between exposure and disease.
- Lawn pesticides are not tested in the combinations and formulations in which they are actually used. Yet, these formulations can be more toxic than the pure active ingredient.
- The chemical company who manufactures the pesticide does the safety testing. This is like the fox guarding the henhouse.
- Lawn pesticides can contaminate well water. 11% of residential wells tested in a Connecticut town showed more lawn pesticides. 11
- There are safe, effective, affordable alternatives to using toxic lawn pesticides. A number of towns in Connecticut have switched to pesticide-free organic lawn care. 12, 13
- With so many unknowns and with plausible evidence of harm to children, it makes no sense for our children to be exposed to the unnecessary use of these toxic chemicals especially when there are safe, effective, affordable alternatives.

References

- 1
www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/factsheets/30health.pdf<<http://www.beyondpesticides.org/lawn/factsheets/30health.pdf>>
- 2 National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences. 1993. Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children, National Academy Press, Washington, DC: 184-185.
- 3 US EPA, Office of the Administrator, Environmental Health Threats to Children, EPA 175-F-96-001, September 1996. See also: www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/pest.htm<<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/food/pest.htm>>.
- 4 National Research Council. 2000. Scientific frontiers in developmental toxicology and risk assessment.
- 5 Washington, DC: National Academy Press. Physicians for Social Responsibility, The National Environmental Trust, and The Learning Disabilities Association of America. 2000. Polluting our future: Chemical pollution in the U.S. that affects child development and learning. www.net.org/health/tri_report.pdf<http://www.net.org/health/tri_report.pdf> (accessed 6/2/05).
- 6 Cox C. 2004. Journal Of Pesticide Reform. Vol. 24 (4) citing: Garry, V.F. et al. 2002. "Birth defects, season of conception, and sex of children born to pesticide applicators living in the Red River Valley of Minnesota." Environmental Health Perspectives, 110 (Suppl. 3):441-449.
- 7 Lowengart, R. et al. 1987. "Childhood Leukemia and Parent's Occupational and Home Exposures," Journal of the National Cancer Institute 79:39.
- 8 Environmental Health, www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/63<<http://www.ehjournal.net/content/10/1/63>> (June 2011)
- 9 Nishioka, M., et al. 1996. Environmental Science Technology, 30:3313-3320; Nishioka, M., et al. 2001. Environmental Health Perspectives, 109(11).
- 10 EPA registration requires only that the pure chemical compound of the pesticide be tested.
- 11 A survey of Private Drinking Water Wells For Lawn and Tree Care Pesticides in a Connecticut Town, Environment and Human Health, Inc.1999.
- 12 See the Northeast Organic Farming Association Connecticut Chapter's information on organic land care. www.ctnofa.org/OrganicLandCare/OLC.htm<<http://www.ctnofa.org/OrganicLandCare/OLC.htm>>
- 13 Managing Healthy Sports Fields: A Guide to Using Organic Materials for Low-Maintenance and Chemical-Free Playing Fields by Paul D. Sachs, January 2004

Integrated Pest Management Is Flawed

1. IPM is flawed - When a company or school says that it is using IPM there is no guarantee that the pesticide applicators treating their property will be properly trained in IPM or actually use IPM methods. Because pesticides are allowed in IPM, there is no way to monitor how much pesticide product is actually used.
2. IPM is promoted by industry as a way to avoid real regulations. IPM is the lawn application industry's attempt to avoid imposed pesticide bans. IPM is largely driven by landscapers and pro-pesticide organizations backed by the pesticide industry funding who lobby to preserve the use of toxic pesticides (a multi-billion dollar industry).
3. IPM is unproven for actually reducing pesticides on school grounds and residential properties. IPM programs for homeowners and schools remain unproven in terms of achieving significant reductions in pesticide use. Canadian municipalities with pesticide by-laws focus primarily on the use of natural (organic) and other alternative lawn care practices.

The Baltimore Sun reported in September 26, 2004 that although Maryland had passed a law requiring schools to implement IPM, a majority of schools were not implementing it.

"A significant number of Maryland schools and the state Department of Agriculture (MDA) are failing to implement a state law designed to minimize the use of pesticides in and around public schools leaving students, staff and others at greater risk of suffering from the harmful effects of toxic chemicals." The state's Integrated-Pest Management-in-Schools (IPM) Law went into effect in September 2000. Its intent was to eliminate or significantly minimize the use in and around Maryland public schools of chemical pesticides that can be harmful to humans, and to provide notification to parents/guardians and employees about pesticide use in their schools. Children and pregnant women (both prominent on school campuses) are particularly vulnerable to the effects of pesticides."

The article went on to say that, "a two-year survey assessed the law's implementation by querying school district pest control managers, teachers and Parent-Teacher Association presidents. The majority of school districts are failing to implement the law fully and successfully."