

The Watershed Partnership, Inc.

February 14, 2013

From Jerry Silbert, M.D.
Executive Director
The Watershed Partnership, Inc.

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Re: Bill 6385 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF PESTICIDES AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Honorable Members of the Education Committee:

This letter is in support of bill 6385 that extends protection from toxic lawn pesticides to High Schools and clarifies some of the language in the statute.

I know we all share the commitment to protect Connecticut's children from harm. As a physician and executive director of the Watershed Partnership, I have studied peer reviewed articles in respected journals about pesticide toxicity. I have also seen excellent results with toxic pesticide free turf care. My conclusion is that there is no need to unnecessarily put children and pregnant women at risk when there are cost effective ways of maintaining fields in perfectly playable condition without toxic pesticides. Examples of these successful fields are in Branford and in Cheshire. They have been not been treated with toxic pesticides for over 4 years and are perfectly playable. This proves that the use of toxic pesticides is unnecessary.

However, I believe that there is a simple change in the bill that would make it stronger and more likely to succeed in its intent. These changes involve the definition of IPM in Section 1, paragraph 3 by adding the words "LAWN CARE PESTICIDES" instead of the word "PESTICIDES"

The way the bill stands now, **ALL** pesticides are prohibited from all schools both indoors and outdoors. Even 25b products that are recognized by the EPA as safe would be prohibited. The use of IPM for indoor control of vermin that can transmit disease is reasonable. The intent of the school lawn pesticide ban was to eliminate the use of toxic lawn pesticides on school grounds and leave the indoor application to eliminate pests to a certified applicator.

I greatly appreciate and share your concern for the safety of Connecticut's children. I hope that you understand my reasons for suggesting this small change is interest of having a strong bill that will accomplish its intent.

Thank you for you consideration.

Respectfully,

