



Post Office Box 415 • Botsford, Connecticut 06404 • 800-562-0160 • ConnGreen@aol.com

Statement of
Bob Heffernan
Executive Director
Connecticut Green Industries Council
before the Environment Committee

Opposing H.B. 5480 / Pesticide Research at UConn's Plant Science Fields

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This bill would damage the very research needed in the state to *reduce* pesticide use. UConn's College of Agriculture has done sterling work to instruct our growers – one half of all of agriculture in the state – on how to use *less* pesticides. Their research on these very fields has improved our techniques for growing plants and for landscaping.

The bill may also set a bad precedent hindering similar research by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at its research fields around the state.

UConn already carefully limits its pesticide applications at its research farm in Storrs to the point that they are not detectable by the most sensitive instruments. The plots using pesticides are located far away from neighbors and are constrained to very small areas.

This research is necessary also for EPA consideration of pesticide applications and testing of safety.

We ask that the Environment Committee **NOT** approve this bill. This bill is more about angry neighbors than about the proper role of science, research, and public policy enhancing the state as a whole.