

**Testimony on Committee Bill No. 5480**  
**LCO No. 3983**  
**by**  
**David Peterson, CT Representative for CARET**

Good afternoon Environment Committee Chairs & Members:

My name is David Peterson, President and owner of Peterson Landscaping Service, Inc., a small landscaping business located in West Hartford. I am also a member of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, the Connecticut Environmental Council and the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association where I serve on the Board of Directors. In addition, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Elizabeth Park Conservancy and on the Dean's Advisory Board at the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Three years ago, I was chosen to represent the University of Connecticut as their delegate to the Council for Agriculture, Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET). CARET seeks to enhance national support and understanding of the land-grant university system's food and agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs that enhance the quality of life for all people. All 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are part of CARET.

Today, I am here to oppose Committee Bill # 5480 requiring an assessment of the use of certain pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

U.S. pesticide regulations require all pesticides to be registered and examined, or exempted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The pesticide registration process includes EPA's evaluation of the product's ingredients; the environmental impacts of pesticide use on the specific site or crop; the amount, frequency and timing of its use; and storage and disposal practices.

Pesticide development and testing by the crop protection industry, as well as EPA registration take an average of nine years for each new product introduced to the market. These products undergo an average of 120 health, safety and environmental tests to ensure their safety and effectiveness prior to being given registration. To be granted an EPA registration, each product must demonstrate that it would not cause "unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment."

After approval by the EPA, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection further regulates the use, storage and disposal practices within Connecticut. DEEP also oversees licensing for pesticide users. The UConn research facilities are adequately monitored.

Agricultural research finds practical solutions to a wide range of issues related to plant and animal production. Resource sustainability is a key focus that includes constantly seeking information to improve water, soil, climate, pest control and a host of cultural practices. Pesticide research leads to increased crop yields making it possible for less than 2% of the U.S. population to produce enough food for us all.

In a struggling economy and with the rising needs of our people, the research being done at UConn is more important than ever before. Connecticut agriculture adds over 3.2 billion dollars to our economy, supports more than 1,100 small businesses and provides over 25,000 Connecticut jobs. The research and teaching (through extension programs) that is provided by the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources is both critical to this vital part of our economy and to the quality of life we enjoy in Connecticut. There is no need to impede their progress with any further unnecessary and costly assessments.

Thank you for your time.

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