

The Watershed Partnership, Inc.

Testimony to Environment Committee

At Public Hearing on February 25, 2013

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Subject: In support of Bills HB 6438 and SB16

Honorable members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Jerry Silbert. I am Executive Director of the Watershed Partnership, a nonprofit environmental organization. I am also a physician trained in pathology and laboratory medicine. Pathology is the study of the causes and effects of human disease. Laboratory medicine involves knowledge about reliability and interpretation of laboratory test results.

This letter is in support of HB 6438: An act restricting the use of methoprene and resmethrin, and SB 16: An act requiring labeling of food and drink products that are packaged in materials that contain Bisphenol-A

With respect to both these bills the underlying problem is the effect of hormone-mimicking chemicals on human health and the environment. It is becoming increasingly evident that hormone mimicking chemicals are a major problem. The solution is to use alternatives that are safe for humans and the environment.

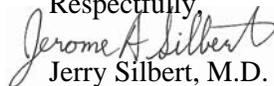
The right to use a harmful chemical does not mean it is right to use a harmful chemical. Rather than preserving profit, that is the objective of those who oppose these bills, it is more worthy goal to preserve the health of Connecticut citizens and the environment.

An international team of experts assembled by the World Health Organization reported on February 19, 2013 that evidence linking hormone-mimicking chemicals to human health problems has grown stronger over the past decade, becoming a "global threat" that should be addressed. The panel of 16 scientists from 10 nations in North America, Europe, Africa and Asia found that endocrine-related diseases and disorders are on the rise. There is now "emerging evidence for adverse reproductive outcomes" and "mounting evidence" for effects on thyroids, brains and metabolism, according to the report summary.

Bisphenol-A powerfully mimics estrogen. It can leach into food from the plastic packaging. People have the right to know that their food could contain BPA.

The lobster industry has been decimated in Long Island Sound. One of the reasons may well be chemicals like methoprene and resmethrin. Since there are other safe alternatives to effective mosquito control these pesticides should not be allowed to enter Long Island Sound.

Respectfully,


Jerry Silbert, M.D.