



CCM 2013 Testimony

900 CHAPEL STREET, 9th FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-2807 PHONE (203) 498-3000 FAX (203) 562-6314

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 92% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

CCM opposes banning certain products critical to abating mosquito populations as proposed in Raised House Bill 6438 "An Act Restricting the Use of Methoprene and Resmethrin".

While the bill would, among other things, mandate the creation of a "plan" for the use and application of larvicides to control mosquito populations, it would also ban the use of certain products within coastal boundaries.

Timely and effective treatment for mosquitoes, especially near water bodies, **is critical to combat the health problems they pose** -- such as West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis, two potentially deadly diseases. While the bill allows for permission to be granted in the event of an "increasing threat" this would come far too late. The purpose of these particular treatments is to kill off the larvae of certain pests. Once the eggs have hatched and are becoming an "increasing threat" it is too late to apply such products and be effective. Therefore, the permission granted at that point would continue to leave residents of Connecticut exposed to the diseases carried by mosquitoes.

Other testimony provided to you today explains one such situation where larvicide was not used in time, with deadly results. The testimony reports that last year in Dallas County, Texas they failed to use larvicide to control mosquito populations until late July, once it had become an "*increasing threat*". As a result of such inaction, more than 1,700 residents contracted West Nile Virus – 76 of whom died. Dallas County alone accounted for nearly 22% of those cases. Since 1999, when the virus entered this country, more than 100 people in Connecticut have gotten sick – 21 of those cases in 2012.

It is critical that before taking any action on such a ban, and potentially endangering the public's health, **CCM urges the committee to ensure that:** (1) the *proper scientific studies have been conducted with conclusive scientific evidence regarding these products*; and (2) a *comprehensive state plan* be created, *through an open and public process*, to ensure local and state public health officials have the *needed tools to appropriately address mosquito populations*.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kachina Walsh-Weaver, State Relations Manager,
kwash-weaver@ccm-ct.org or (203) 710-9525.