



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Middletown

CONNECTICUT 06457

Daniel T. Drew

MAYOR

Proposed Legislation to Eliminate Preemption of Lawn-Care Pesticide Regulation

February 22, 2013

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Members of the Environment Committee:

As Mayor of the City of Middletown, I write to ask that the Connecticut Legislature *restore to our city* the option to adopt *stricter regulations* on the use of lawn-care pesticides than the 1983 state legislation (Sec. 22a-54 of the State Statutes) allows and support HB 6440 - An Act Concerning Municipalities And The Application of Lawn Care Pesticides.

Many lawn-care pesticides have been shown to be harmful to people and pets, especially when they are ingested daily in water from contaminated wells, aquifers or reservoirs. Physical contact with air, water, soil and vegetation containing pesticides also poses a danger to health.

A 1999 study in the town of Woodbridge, CT found that 11% of private drinking-water wells tested were contaminated with pesticides. Some of these wells were deep wells, and some belonged to homeowners who did not use pesticides on their own property. These results show that contamination is not limited to the site of pesticide application.

Lawn-care chemicals make their way into the environment through rain runoff and are passed along through the food chain, contaminating fish and wildlife. Located on a major waterway and regional resource, the Connecticut River, and two of its tributaries, the Coginchaug and Mattabeset rivers, and with extensive wetlands and important reservoirs, Middletown's environment is particularly sensitive. Lawn-care products applied in Middletown can affect not only the city itself, but also neighboring communities and Long Island Sound.

Our city's deep concern about the public and environmental health risks of lawn-care chemical use led to the development of Project Green Lawn, a collaborative public-awareness campaign to encourage residents and businesses to maintain healthy, safe lawns free of harmful chemicals.

Middletown wishes to have the right to regulate lawn-care practices within its borders. This right was taken away from us in 1983 when pesticide manufacturers and the lawn-care industry lobbied successfully for the preemption legislation currently in effect. We ask that this right be restored, so that our citizens and our Common Council may take into account the most up-to-date hard scientific evidence and act in the best interests of our city and our neighbors.

Sincerely yours,



Daniel T. Drew

Mayor, City of Middletown