

Environment Committee Public Hearing 2/25/13

Project Green Lawn is in support the following bills:

S.B. No. 914-An Act Concerning The Application of Pesticides At Municipal Parks.

S.B. No. 916- An Act Authorizing Civil Penalties For The Faulty, Careless Or Negligent Application Of Pesticides.

S.B. No. 917-An Act Authorizing The Use Of Certain Microbial And Biochemical Pesticides And Grub Control Products On School Grounds.

H.B. No. 6440-An Act Concerning Municipalities and The Application of Lawn Care Pesticides.

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to support these proposals. Project Green Lawn is a Middletown-based public awareness campaign created to educate residents, businesses and institutions about the risks of traditional lawn care chemicals and the benefits of organic lawn care. Members include children's advocates, environmental groups, members of the City's Recycling Commission and Conservation Commission and public health professionals. Project Green Lawn has hosted a variety of public education events since 2005 and has worked closely with the City to improve organic lawn care efforts on municipal grounds.

Project Green Lawn appreciates the opportunity to comment in favor of the above four proposals.

S.B. No. 914-An Act Concerning The Application of Pesticides At Municipal Parks:

There is an overwhelming amount of scientific evidence that pesticides cause harm to our children, pets and the environment. We don't need further studies to tell us more of the same. It is important to keep our parks safe for those who spend time and enjoy them. We have proven organic methods that work and are cost-effective. It is common sense to apply the precautionary principle. How can we continue to knowingly put our children and pets at risk when it isn't necessary?

S.B. No. 916- An Act Authorizing Civil Penalties For The Faulty, Careless Or Negligent Application Of Pesticides.

Many of us know of others who have had their lawns mistakenly sprayed with pesticides by either a lawn care provider or a neighbor who is unsafely applying home lawn care chemicals. As many lawn care chemicals are toxic and dangerous to people, pets and our environment, it is important to curb this carelessness and give the victims some recourse.

S.B. No. 917-An Act Authorizing The Use Of Certain Microbial And Biochemical Pesticides And Grub Control Products On School Grounds.

Knowing that these are non-toxic methods, we would support allowing these, but would only support this bill as is, without amendments or additions!

H.B. No. 6440-An Act Concerning Municipalities and The Application of Lawn Care Pesticides.

It is in the best interest of the public to keep our waterways and children safe from pesticides. Yet, without giving municipalities the ability to control the use of lawn care pesticides next to rivers and aquifers and other vulnerable areas, we cannot prevent the poisoning of our water supply and we cannot do what is best to protect our children. This bill starts to give municipalities back the ability to control and protect vulnerable resources and to do what is in the best interest of their town.

Thank you for the opportunity to support these proposals. Should you have further questions, please contact Project Green Lawn staff , the Middletown Recycling Coordinator, Kim O'Rourke at 860-344-3526 or kim.orourke@middletownct.gov.