

March 15, 2013

My name is Marc Weston and I am the Golf Course Superintendent at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington, CT. I am also a class of 1996 graduate of the University of Connecticut, with a degree in Horticulture.

I first became involved with the UCONN research farm in 1993, with some of my classes and labs being held there. This is where I had my hands-on educational experiences in turfgrass maintenance. The projects that we were involved in as students always were based on applying best management practices in the use of water, pesticides, and fertilizers.

I was fortunate enough to have exceptional professors at UCONN who stressed the importance of sustainability and the need to always remain current with the research being done. Those values were instilled in me 20 years ago from the UCONN professors and my work at the research farm.

Since graduating from UCONN, I have seen the university launch the turfgrass program and expand their first-class research farm. The research farm is a tremendous asset to UCONN, its students, and the turfgrass industry. It is extremely valuable to me, in my work, to have research being done in our state, at this research farm. Their research efforts help me to determine product timing and rates, and provide guidance to reduce the amount of water, pesticides, and fertilizers I use on my own golf course.

I am extremely grateful to have the UCONN research farm as a resource for our industry. Professors are always available to discuss research that is being conducted or to provide advice related to agronomical issues and challenges that may be occurring around the state. They have given countless educational presentations about the value of their research, which has helped our industry develop environmentally sound maintenance practices.

In conclusion, if restrictions were imposed on the work the research farm is able to do in the future, I would be concerned that they would not be able to provide the valuable information, insight, and guidance that has benefitted the turfgrass industry in Connecticut. I am strongly opposed to Committee Bill No. 5480 and any restrictions that would be placed on agricultural research at the University of Connecticut's research farm.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marc Weston, CGCS