

**Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**

By
Nancy Alderman, President

Bill 5480

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

Environment and Human Health, Inc is in strong support of Bill 5480 -- An Act Requiring an Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

May we first define pesticides, which are used on grounds? Those pesticides include insecticides, herbicides and fungicides.

We know that pesticides that are placed on grounds often migrate down into nearby well water. According to the United States Geological Survey, Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) conducted the largest private well-water study in the nation.

This study can be found at <http://www.ehhi.org/reports/wells/summary.shtml>

In that study, EHHI looked at 53 wells in Woodbridge, Connecticut for their lawn-care pesticide contents. Some wells that had pesticides in them were deep wells and other contaminated wells belonged to organic lawn-care households. The study showed that lawn-care pesticides used anywhere in a town could end up in people's wells – even in an organic lawn-care owner's well.

We found that 11 percent of the wells had pesticides in them and many of the wells were contaminated with more than one pesticide. Pesticides are tested for their health effects one compound at a time. There is no research on the interaction or synergy of these chemicals found together, or on their compounded effects on human health.

By the University placing pesticides, of which some are experimental, on their property near homes on well-water, the University of Connecticut is not only experimenting with pesticides – they are also experimenting with the health of the nearby neighbors – many of which teach at that very University.

The University should stop placing dangerous pesticides on grounds near where people live, and especially when the nearby homes are on well water.

At the very least the University should take responsibility for testing the ground water for the very pesticides that it is placing on the property. This cannot be done just once – or just once a year - it must be repeated at least bi-yearly and one of those times should be soon after pesticides are placed on the ground.

If the University is going to poison the ground that it owns – it should take responsibility to make sure it does not poison its neighbors.

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
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