

Written Testimony of

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**5480 AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM**

Environment Committee

March 15, 2013

Good morning Senator Meyer and the members of the Environment Committee. My name is Scott Ramsay, I'm the Legislative Chair of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I'm here today to testify on 5480, an act requiring the assessment of the use of certain pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm. I believe that 5480 could be detrimental to continued research at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

I am testifying in support of the Plant Science programs at the University of Connecticut. UCONN is a valuable source of information, research and support to all of the varying elements of the Green industry, not only in-state but throughout the region. UCONN has a reputation in the turf industry as a leader in developing newer, greener and more sustainable Best Management Programs (BMP) and elements of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems. Our industry is moving towards lowering our environmental footprint and is dependent upon research institutions to provide the direction and data necessary to make the next steps towards these sustainable programs. As an industry we are supportive of UCONN's knowledge and research with cooperative efforts and fund raising. There are many groups throughout New England and the entire Northeast who support research at UCONN because of its vibrant staff and innovative outlook.

I personally have hired many students and graduates of the UCONN program. The education and experience that they gain at the Research Farm with hands on, real world practices is invaluable to their placement and advancement in their careers. UConn is developing a national exposure for their alumni, so are the students that are dependent on the education they receive at the UConn Research Farm.

My concern is that the unintended consequences of this bill that could affect the amount and depth of research that currently is underway and the research that still needs to be studied. UCONN began as a Land Grant College and as an agricultural research institution, today that work is as important as it was then.

I moved to Connecticut 30 years ago as a new graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a degree in plant science. At that time URI was, in my opinion, the preeminent Turf program in the country. I have watched that program hobbled over the years to the point where it is nearly non-existent. UConn has successfully filled this void, their work not only must continue but there is so much more to be undertaken to provide the next generation of turf management and managers.