

TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT FOR BILLS : S.B. 914, S.B.916, S.B. 917 AND H.B. 6440
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 25,
2013

Thank you for the opportunity to support these bills, pursuant for better rules in the use of pesticides, which are so harmful to not only the general public, but especially small children and pregnant women.

My name is Ann Berman and was Chair of the Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition, ECC for 10 years. Presently I am the co-chair of the ECC's Freedom Lawn Initiative. We have advocated, since 1996 for the non-use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in the yards in Milford. Our Board of Alderman to approved a Resolution in support of our Initiative, and since that time, have held a contest each year rewarding the winners. We have documented the lawns, gardens and yards which are free from these chemicals and shown how successful one can be and still produce beautiful vegetables and flowers.

I would like to include this quote from a recent report which said, "The report points to the previous regulations, such as the 2000 U.S. restrictions on chlorpyrifos, as an option to protect people. After the pesticide was banned from residential use, children's blood levels in New York were cut in half within two years. Also, lead bans greatly reduced children's exposure. To avoid prolonged exposures in the future, the panel reported that perhaps countries should "ban or restrict chemicals in order to reduce exposure early, even when there are significant but incomplete data".

Although I support S.B. 914 and S.B 916 , I want to confine only one comment for **S.B. 17** , that is how the homeowner can reduce the number of Japanese beetles which lay their eggs to become grubs. My suggestion is to advise homeowners to reduce outdoor lighting at night which attract the beetles. However, if they think they need the light, to make it a yellow light or go to motion sensitive lights. The ECC has its own brochure on lawn care and gives suggestions on controlling weeds with Corn Gluten and Milky Spore for the control of grubs. If following the directions, they can be successful. Dr. Jerry Silbert, in his testimony, has made a very good case for using non-toxic microbial pesticides for the control of pests and weeds.

H.B. 6440 is a small step towards protecting us from the over use of pesticides, but this isn't a perfect world and my concern is that there needs to be some better checks on the landscaper that is a legal applicator of a pesticide. It has been demonstrated in the past that there have been extravagant use of pesticides for minor problems. The over use of pesticides is very dangerous to the young especially and very toxic, even in small doses. We in Milford live on the Sound and with a river bordering us on either side along with rivers and streams in between, all running and emptying into LIS. If we are wise and steadfast, we may be able to make a case for protecting us from the use of say, RoundUp and 2,4 D with this bill. Then this would be a very good step.

Submitted by

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