



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 25, 2013  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Daniel Esty  
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary

**Raised Senate Bill No. 914 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT MUNICIPAL PARKS**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 914 – An Act Concerning The Application Of Pesticides At Municipal Parks. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) offers the following testimony.

DEEP does not support this proposal. This bill would extend the existing ban on the use of lawn care pesticides at elementary and middle schools to all municipal parks. However, in some instances pests cannot be controlled without the use of a pesticide. DEEP is also concerned about increased inspection resources that would be needed to enforce this new requirement. Meaningful enforcement for municipal parks would take resources away from other areas, including schools.

While it is true that children do play at some parks, it is also true that not all parks have such use. In addition, maintenance of parks, especially playing fields used by a wide variety of citizens, sometimes do require the use of pesticides to keep them in playable condition. While the use of non-pesticidal methods such as aeration and topdressing with compost, are valuable and should be encouraged, there are occasionally pests that cannot be controlled without the use of a pesticide.

Importantly invasive plant species can be a significant problem at parks, and the preferable way to control them may be with pesticides. Lawn care pesticides are so broadly defined that they include many pesticides used on other sites, including rights of way and other non-lawn areas where invasive plants often grow.

Many states have laws restricting the use of pesticides at schools (New York is one example) but the use at parks has little precedent. Even San Francisco allows the use of pesticides on their parks after a thorough review.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance at (860) 424-3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov).