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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Environment Committee  
February 25, 2013

Testimony In Favor of  
SB 914 AAC The Application Of Pesticides At Municipal Parks  
SB 916 AA Authorizing Civil Penalties For The Faulty, Careless Or  
Negligent Application Of Pesticides  
SB 917 AA Authorizing The Use Of Certain Microbial And Biochemical Pesticides  
And Grub Control Products On School Grounds  
HB 6440 AAC Municipalities And The Application Of Lawn Care Pesticides

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Sierra Club believes that the knowing and intentional introduction of toxic substances into our environment is very much an environmental issue.

SB 914

Protecting growing children from exposure to toxic chemicals is a priority. We now do this by prohibiting application of pesticides to K-8 school grounds. Because young children are frequent visitors to local parks, we can further protect these children by limiting applications of toxic pesticides to the grounds of these parks. This bill would accomplish that. The bill imposes no obligation on the towns other than notice, and even that is subject to available funding, so that no unfunded mandate is created by the bill.

SB 916

This bill simply makes clear the state's interest in ensuring that pesticide applicators, who are charged with the handling and application of these toxic chemicals, do so in a professional and responsible manner, subject to civil penalties for malfeasance.

SB 917

Since 2005, we have protected young children from exposure to toxic pesticides through a ban on application on school grounds. We now understand that certain products can be effective in treating grubs and other pests without the toxicity to humans found in currently banned pesticides. This bill authorizes use of those products, consistent with maintaining the existing ban.

## HB 6440

Towns are currently banned from imposing restrictions on lawn care applications on residents which are stricter than state law. This bill would allow towns to impose stricter controls **ONLY** if they choose to. This would allow, for example, a town to impose stricter lawn care pesticide controls on lands which overlie a public drinking water aquifer.

Towns of course may limit applications on town property as they like as long as state law is honored. This bill concerns restrictions of applications on private property within a town.

This bill does not impose a mandate and it imposes no duties or obligations on a town. It simply lifts the state preemption and allows towns to address a valid concern about toxics applied locally which could affect residents of the town.