



**Testimony
Kathryn Dube
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Environment Committee
February 25, 2013**

- **SB-914 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT MUNICIPAL PARKS**
- **SB-917 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN MICROBIAL AND BIOCHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND GRUB CONTROL PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**
- **HB-6440 – AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND THE APPLICATION OF LAWN CARE PESTICIDES**

The health and safety of our children is of paramount concern to our communities.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) has heard from several towns that are having difficulty maintaining athletic fields and school grounds due to the restrictions on the use of Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPM). Athletic fields that fall into disrepair due to pest infestations create hazardous situations for children. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, IPM, which permits the judicious use of pesticides under very limited circumstances to ensure the safety of athletic fields and school grounds are “an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices.” If a school or town is unable to control pests using other methods and certain thresholds are met, IPM provides a mechanism for addressing the problem to ensure the fields are safe for our children to play on.

At the same time, communities want to make sure that state laws and policies involving the use of pesticides are effective in protecting the health and safety of our children. Given all of the different and sometimes conflicting studies relative to pesticides, towns certainly want to know the best way to proceed.

As such, it is our understanding that the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), legislators and other stakeholders are establishing a task force to fully review these issues. A task force that includes stakeholders from various groups with expertise in these issues would be best positioned to develop thoughtful, reasonable policies governing the use of pesticides on school grounds, athletic fields and municipal parks.

We therefore urge committee members to **reject any bills addressing the use of pesticides** and, instead, support efforts to convene a task force of stakeholders to thoroughly review issues involving pesticides and recommend policies that will protect our children. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Connecticut Council of Small Towns
1245 Farmington Avenue, 101 West Hartford, CT 06107

Tel 860-676-0770 Fax 860-676-2662