Children's Committee
Public Hearing
March 6, 2014

Opposition of *Raised Bill No. 46*

AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Dear Children's Committee,

I understand that you were looking for input from towns on the pesticide restrictions.

The town of East Haddam has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in building our athletic fields and because of the pesticide restrictions, we are not able to properly take care of them. Additionally, these restrictions have caused a lot of additional work and expense to maintain these fields and they are deteriorating more and more every year as a result.

The products which we are being prevented from using have been vetted by the EPA and the CT DEEP and are safe to use responsibly. The EPA is constantly reviewing these products and, if they discover that a product, after a period of time for whatever reason, is unsafe, they remove it from the market.

When the law went into effect, it was written to say that absolutely NO pesticides could be used on the fields and properties. This meant that any pesticide, no matter what it's chemical makeup, no matter what it was being used for, no matter what it's degree of toxicity could be used. It would have been better and more reasonable if the law allowed for a group of scientists, educators and administrators to review the most commonly used products and decide which are the safest and most effective for use.

East Haddam has had the UCONN agricultural group, local horticultural groups and several land scape companies look at our fields. We have spent thousands of dollars following different recommendations and at the end of the day we still have fields at our Middle and Elementary schools that are an embarrassment to our community.

We all agree that there is nothing more important than the health and safety of the children of our community but do believe there are products on the marked today that are vetted and could be used to help improve the quality of our grounds while maintaining the safety of our kids.

Thanks,
Marty

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