



## State of Connecticut

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MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Children Committee  
Public Testimony  
March 6, 2014

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SB 46 AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Dear Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban, Senator Linares, Representative Betts and esteemed members of the Children Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I want to thank the committee for the dedication you have shown to protecting children in our State. I am here to oppose raised bill #46 which would extend a ban for all pesticides on school grounds.

First, as a legislator I believe this bill would stop the work of many other committees and DEEP scientific studies that are already underway. For example, just last week the Environment Committee voted on a bill to allow certain grub control measures in SB 68 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN MICROBIAL AND BIOCHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND GRUB CONTROL PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS. This is in direct response to the dozens of school districts, including my district, who are finding failing conditions at their K-8 fields. I have submitted, for your records, the DEEP testimony on that bill. In his testimony, Deputy McCleary states that DEEP has hired a Harvard professor to review the impact of chemicals on turf and school grounds. The report is expected anytime now. I believe we should wait for that data before proceeding on a ban extension, as this bill does.

In addition, I am a member of the MORE Commission and we have been discussing this issue from a view point of unfunded mandates. My community alone has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to alleviate our crumbling fields to no avail, since the K-8 ban went into effect. In fact, last week the MORE Commission Mandate Committee voted unanimously to support the following:

#### **M.O.R.E. Commission Municipal Mandates Sub-Committee Pest Control Working Group Report**

*1) That the Pesticide Advisory Council, as constituted in Connecticut General Statutes*



*Section 22a-65(d), be utilized:*

- a. to review all new pesticides on a rolling basis for safety and effectiveness, and*
- b. to report its findings and recommend standards to the Commissioner of DEEP for consideration in making regulations*

*2) That DEEP, in consultation with the Pesticide Advisory Council, create, publish, and regularly update a set of best practices, including review of the Massachusetts IPM monitoring website, for use by municipalities regarding the safe and effective use of both synthetic and organic pesticides*

*3) That DEEP shall establish a regionalized purchasing mechanism for pest control products through which municipalities may obtain products for a reduced price.*

***\*Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-65(d):***

*(d) The commissioner shall establish a Pesticide Advisory Council consisting of, but not limited to, the director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Public Health, and the dean of the college of agriculture of The University of Connecticut or their respective designees. The council shall meet at least annually and the commissioner may consult with the Pesticide Advisory Council on technical matters involving the application and use of pesticides, the determination of imminent hazards and the unreasonable adverse effects on the environment before promulgating regulations or orders in carrying out this part, subsection (a) of section 23-61a and sections 23-61b and 23-61f.*

Several administrators in my community have submitted testimony in opposition of this bill. I have spoken to all three town facility managers as well. They are all opposed to extending the ban. In the town of East Haddam, they have been hit especially hard by the current law. UCONN in fact held a course at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School last year for pesticide free management and I am aware of no one who could solve their dilemma without the use of a pesticide. During that same year, many sport teams were not allowed to play on those fields because of the horrific condition. This is an ongoing issue in my community, especially since these fields were just installed a few short years ago. The school is only 5 years old and I was also a member of the school building committee. I have attached the agenda from that UCONN course to my testimony.

I am concerned about supporting an outright ban now, when we have so many different studies and reports which are trying to deal with the unintended consequences of the K-8 ban. As a legislator, I respect your stance of needing data to make the best decisions and would urge you to wait for that data to be reviewed before passing any new laws.

Lastly, I would offer testimony as a Mom. My son Bryan is a dedicated baseball player and attended Nathan Hale Ray Middle School for the 5 years I previously mentioned. During his 6, 7, and 8 grades we often had to play on other fields in our community. The deteriorating condition of our fields cannot be overstated. I found it appalling as a parent and taxpayer who just spent \$32 million dollars on a new facility. Try as our grounds crew might, they just could not combat the conditions with the methods allowed. Yet, we would travel to other schools and I can tell you that a few had better fields. Why? I

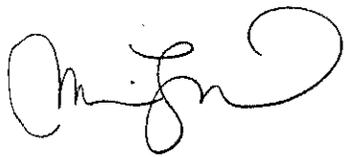


believed that there were pesticide applications happening. In fact, during the summer when I traveled with my sons Major League or traveling team program and we would be visiting a variety of fields all over the state. I had many private conversations with field operators. It was confirmed to me many times that applications were happening by volunteer coaches who felt they had no choice but to maintain the integrity of their fields. They were willing to get up in the middle of the night and head to the field to apply the same pesticides they use at home to make sure the fields were in safe condition. Other times, we were scheduled at high school fields because they were in such better and safer condition.

I am sharing this with you so that you will understand how far the pendulum has swung. What was a good intention to keep kids from chemicals has had the opposite effect in many cases. Kids are falling and injuring themselves in clumps of crabgrass, balls are taking a bad bounce and athletes are getting hit in the face, water doesn't drain off the infield causing slippery conditions and prolonging field closures, clover is rampant causing bee stings, hornets are living in fencing and stinging children and visitors, ticks are biting children and causing Lyme disease, skunks who are digging for grubs are leaving holes and it is a hazard. These things are happening now.

My son deserves to play on fields that are safe. It is my belief and those of many parents in my community that extending this ban to high school will only perpetuate the problems we know to be true in our K-8 fields. They may be pesticide free, but they are far from safe.

Best Regards,

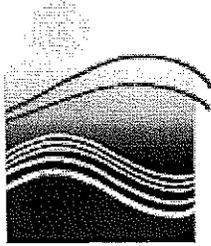


Melissa Ziobron

State Representative

34<sup>th</sup> District





Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

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

Public Hearing – February 19, 2014  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Robert J. Klee  
Presented by Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary

**Raised Senate Bill No. 68 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN MICROBIAL AND BIOCHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND GRUB CONTROL PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill No. 68 - AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF CERTAIN MICROBIAL AND BIOCHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND GRUB CONTROL PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) generally supports this proposal and welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

This bill would allow several types of lawn care pesticides to be used on the grounds of middle and elementary schools as well as day care facilities. The pesticides the bill refers to are of low potential hazard when used in accordance with label directions.

In our communications with municipalities, control of grubs has been a common area of concern. As we read the language of Raised Senate Bill 68, most formulations of Acelepryn (a grub control pesticide) would be allowed although there are some formulations that carry danger, warning or caution "signal words" on their label. (A "signal word" is a defined term under the Code of Federal Regulations<sup>1</sup>).

Thus, in order to be consistent with federal label language, we also respectfully suggest changing the language of subsection (1)(C) to the following on lines 15 through 17 of the raised bill: "(C) grub control product registered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency that does not contain a product label with a caution, warning or danger indication-SIGNAL WORD"

For the Committee's information, DEEP has hired Dr. Chensheng (Alex) Lu, Associate Professor of Environmental Exposure Biology at Harvard to perform a literature review and policy implication synthesis of the impact of EPA-registered pesticides that are most widely used on turf and school grounds on the health of children and pollinators, including synergetic effects, using top-tier, peer-reviewed scientific journals (expected February/March 2014). Dr. Lu also will be conducting a meta



analysis of the effect of the European Union ban on neonicotinoids (expected June/July 2014), which he will publish the findings in a peer-reviewed journal.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov) ).

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<sup>1</sup> 40 CFR 156.64 <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title40-vol24/pdf/CFR-2011-title40-vol24-sec156-64.pdf>





## Best Management Practices for Pesticide-Free Athletic Field Management

Nathan Hale Ray Middle School  
73 Clark Gates Road  
East Haddam, CT  
August 15, 2013

- 7:30 - 7:55 a.m. **Registration and Coffee**
- 7:55 - 8:00 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**, Vickie Wallace, UConn Extension Educator, Dept. of Extension
- 8:00 - 8:10 a.m. **Welcome**, Roy Parker, Assistant Principal, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School
- 8:10 - 8:25 a.m. **"What do you Know?"** - Clickers
- 8:25 - 8:40 a.m. **"Time with Diane"**, Overview of Pesticide Laws, Diane Jorsey  
CT DEEP Pesticide Management Division
- 8:40 - 8:45 a.m. **Move Outdoors**
- 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. **"Demonstration of Grub Control with Nematode Applications"**, Rich Cowles  
CT Agricultural Experiment Station
- 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15 - 10:35 a.m. **"Overview of Athletic Field Management at Nathan Hale Ray Middle School"**, Don Ramsey,  
Greenscapes
- 10:35 - 11:20 a.m. **"Nutrient Management Concerns and Calibration for Compost Applications and Equipment Demonstrations"**, Jason Henderson, Associate Professor and William Dest, Professor Emeritus,  
UConn Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
- 11:20 - 12:05 p.m. **"Best Management Practices for Pesticide-Free Turf Care"**, Vickie Wallace, UConn Extension  
and Jason Henderson, UConn Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
- 12:05 - 12:45 p.m. **Lunch**
- 12:45 - 1:00 p.m. **Panel: Review of the Day and Ask the Experts**, Jason Henderson, William Dest, Don Ramsey,  
Greenscapes, Vickie Wallace, Diane Jorsey, and Rich Cowles
- 1:00 - 1:10 p.m. **"What do you Know Now?"** - Clickers
- 1:10 - 1:15 p.m. **Evaluation and Pesticide Recertification Credits** – 3.75 Credits/Category 3A & 3B
- 1:15 p.m. **Adjourn – Safe Travels!**

