

**Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.**
by
Nancy Alderman, President

H.B. No. 5580 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PESTICIDE ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PRIMARY SERVICE AREA TASK FORCE AND THE ELIMINATION OF A MUNICIPAL MANDATE.

Good morning Senator Osten and Representative Rojas, and Members of the Planning and Development Committee

Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) is in opposition to Bill 5580 as it is presently written.

We are strongly opposed to sections 1-3 of the Bill that states:

61f. The council shall, on an ongoing basis, review all new pesticides for safety and effectiveness and report the results of such review to the commissioner for consideration in making regulations. The commissioner shall, in consultation with the Pesticide Advisory Council, create, publish and regularly update a report on best practices regarding the safe and effective use of synthetic and organic pesticides for use by municipalities.

Sec. 2. Section 22a-65 of the general statutes is amended by adding subsection (e) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

(NEW) (e) The commissioner shall establish a regional purchasing program through which municipalities may purchase pesticides for a reduced price.

Sec. 3. (*Effective October 1, 2014*) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the Pesticide Advisory Council established pursuant to section 22a-65 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, review the integrated pest management monitoring web site maintained by the state of Massachusetts for the purpose of determining whether to create a similar resource in the state of Connecticut.

This is basically an IPM Bill - or pesticides as usual Bill - and EHHI is opposed to it.

This Bill does not even mention organic methods of maintaining grounds. For instance, if the state is to have a website concerning IPM methods, (the CT DEP

already has such a website found at:

(http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2710&q=417604&deepNav_GID=1712)

then there should also be a site that shows people how to maintain their properties using organic methods.

As well, if there is to be a regional purchasing program for buying pesticides – then there should also be a regional program for buying organic products such as compost and seed.

Pesticides that are used on grounds include insecticides, herbicides and fungicides. All of these pesticides are designed to kill living things.

As well, all of these pesticides contain inert ingredients – which are never divulged to the public – as industry declares them “trade secrets.” A new study shows that the “Inert” ingredients make all pesticides more dangerous to cells than the current safety testing has revealed.

When pesticides are tested for safety, they are only tested for their “active” ingredients. The “inert” ingredients are added AFTER the testing.

This new study suggests that these “inert” additives can make pesticides more dangerous to cells than current safety testing reveals.

<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/2014/Feb/pesticides-are-more-dangerous-than-testing-of-active-ingredient-alone-reveals/>

To quote from the study, “The study suggests that inert ingredients in pesticides can magnify the effects of active ingredients, sometimes as much as 1,000-fold. Eight commercial products out of nine tested were hundreds of times more toxic than their active ingredient alone.”

With this new information – how can we let small children and pets play on park grounds that have been treated with pesticides that we actually have no idea how toxic they actually are.

Please remove sections 1-3 from this Bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Environment and Human Health Inc.
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