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## Environment Committee - February 19, 2014

### Written Testimony for SB No. 68, An Act Authorizing the Use of Certain Microbial and Biochemical Pesticides and Grub Control Products on School Grounds

Good Afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and members of the Environment Committee. My name is David G. Lenihan and I am the legislative liaison for the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO). I am also a retired School Business Manager with over 14 years of experience in this field and a past president of CASBO.

CASBO is a non-profit professional association that represents school business officials (SBOs) throughout the state of Connecticut.

SBOs work closely with school boards, administrators, staff, public officials and communities; and are responsible for most aspects of school business and operations. This includes, but not limited to, developing and monitoring school district budgets as well as overseeing maintenance and operations, including field preparation and care.

Since July 1, 2010, there has been a ban on the use of EPA registered pesticides on public school grounds K to 8. Since the ban, many fields have been damaged and some rendered unplayable, despite the efforts of grounds staff to maintain these fields using more expensive organic materials and/or labor-intensive manual procedures. These materials and procedures are not effective in addressing pest problems.

Over the last three years, pest populations have grown without controls.

Although this bill addresses grub control, this is only one of many issues facing schools, including but not limited to, invasive plants (i.e. poison ivy), ticks, tree disease, and dangerous playing surfaces. All these issues present serious health and safety hazards to our students.

CASBO, as well as many other municipal organizations, believes that a comprehensive approach to controlling pests and addressing all safety issues is far preferable to a piecemeal approach included in this bill.

The U.S. EPA has recommended that schools utilize the Integrated Pest Management approach to care for all school grounds. CASBO fully supports this approach.

Thank You