

**Subject:** S.B. No 443 Amendment concerning Genetically Modified plants.

I attended Monday, March 17th Public Meeting of the Environmental committee. I was interested in attending in order to learn about the Genetically Modified Organism Amendment that was recently added to S.B. No. 443. I am the owner a horticultural business that grows over 1500 perennial varieties and has a yearly sales volume of about two million perennial plants. We are the largest grower of perennials in New England. In addition, I have studied Plant Science at the University of Connecticut in Storrs and have had a Pesticide Applicators License for the past 25 years.

At the moment my main objection to this amendment (H.R. No. 443) is that it is being rushed through the legislature without proper industry input and without an adequate hearing. I also have some factual disagreements with Senate President Donald E. Williams', testimony who spoke in favor of the amendment. I can think of no resulting harm to the environment in delaying this bill for future consideration in order for it to have a proper hearing.

Based on my current thinking I do not believe there will be an increase in pesticide use as a result of the Genetically Modified grass or plants as Senate President Donald E. Williams, indicated. I believe there will be an increase in the use of Round-Up and an equal decrease in the use of pre-emergence and selective herbicides. In as much as the Round-up is effective in eradicating all weeds (instead of only broad leafed weeds) lawn treatments should require less herbicide, not more.

There was no discussion on the effect this ban may have on growers like me. I think the Nursery Industry's input should be part of your equation.

I have additional input, but I am hoping to present my point of view regarding this amendment at a future date. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ira Feinberg  
President  
The Plant Group, Inc