



**FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT  
MARCH 17, 2014**

**To the Chairmen, Sen. Ed Meyer and Rep. Linda Gentile,  
and Members of the Committee:**

*Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 450 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents.*

**We write to express strong support for SB 443, AAC The Application Of Pesticides At Parks, Playgrounds, Athletic Fields And Municipal Greens.** I am attaching to these remarks the American Academy of Pediatrics 2012 Technical Report *Pesticide Exposure in Children*. The report is chilling. You will see in the Abstract that the doctors have found associations between pesticide use and children's cancers and neurodevelopmental disorders. Moreover, they state that additional data suggests an association between parental pesticide use and adverse birth outcomes. It concludes: "Children's exposure to pesticides should be limited as much as possible."

There are already pesticides in *all* the nation's rivers and streams (US Geological Survey, 2006). Pesticide use is a major contributor to the die-off of freshwater species, which lead in the mass extinction of species now underway in North America.

This science and even the labels on pesticide products make it clear that the substances are dangerous. The American Academy of Pediatrics makes it clear they are dangerous to children. Please pass this legislation.

**Please note: In Region 12 (Washington, Roxbury, and Bridgewater) we do not use pesticides on our playing fields or school grounds. Our sports teams are excellent.**

Thank you for your care to protect children.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Miner".

Margaret Miner, Executive Director

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