

Members of the Environment Committee,

As one who supplies professional, licensed applicators with the tools they need to provide safe, playable and attractive fields and grounds; they must have the ability to select and utilize the least toxic, most effective EPA registered pesticide available, regardless if it is synthetic or organic.

EPA registered products go through rigorous safety and efficacy testing to become registered and they then must go through further testing by the state to become registered for use in CT. A number of new, EPA-registered chemistries are safer on the environment than several "organic" non-registered products that are currently allowed and work far better. These product are proven to be safe and effective when used at label rates as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Non-registered products do not need to go through any efficacy testing and many claims are unsubstantiated. Organic does not automatically mean safe, synthetic does not automatically mean dangerous.

IPM allows for well-maintained athletic fields and playgrounds, free of pest hazards and greatly reduces the use of chemical pest and weed controls. It prevents injuries to student athletes from rough playing surfaces, weed and insect allergies. It reduces liability claims against towns and schools due to injuries. IPM protects the financial investments towns have made in athletic fields and school grounds. It greatly reduces the amount of pest control utilized for maximum effectiveness while utilizing IPM trained, regulated and licensed professionals for pest control applications. The EPA sees the value and safety in IPM and calls for it to be in every school by 2015.

I urge you to oppose this act and allow the professionals who do care for these grounds and facilities to utilize every tool available to them, including the judicious use of synthetic products that have been proven safe and effective.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Hart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William T. Hart
Vice President



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