

SB 366 AAC Extending the Ban on Lawn Care Pesticides to Schools that House Grades Nine to Twelve Inclusive, and to State Facilities.

HB 1063 AAC The Application of Pesticides on School Grounds and Certain Public Spaces, Authorizing the Use of Certain Microbials, and Reestablishing the Pesticide Advisory Council.

Dear Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, and Members of the Committee:

Your support is needed to eliminate the toxic exposure to pesticides for CT families.

My children were active in youth football, lacrosse and soccer. Their teams were assigned to practice and play on high school and town park fields many hours each week, far exceeding the time they spent on grounds in gym and recess at their elementary and middle schools. Summer sports camps and Parks & Rec programs kept them on these fields, maintaining exposure 8 months of the year.

They played in mud, mist and dew, wet conditions that kept their clothing and skin in contact with toxins previously spread on the fields. During drier conditions, they were exposed to and inhaled dust. I and other team moms would provide snacks and oranges eaten during half-time and after games, without time for or access to adequate hand washing, allowing these children to ingest toxins present on their hands. Please use bold leadership to stop this cycle of exposure for tens of thousands of children each year across Connecticut.

My town of Glastonbury has recently developed a 100 acre park directly adjacent to the Connecticut River. There is not adequate buffering zones or filtering measures to prevent chemical runoff from this site. Storm drainage is directed to a culvert that feeds directly into the river.

Please expand the pesticide ban, and carefully consider exemptions for grub control. Measures to build a healthy soil and organic practices using nematodes, milky spore disease and other treatments and lawn care can effectively eradicate grubs without using toxins. Acelepryn, or the trademarked product Grubex, comes with a manufacturers warning that drift and run-off may be hazardous to water adjacent to use sites.

We personally decided to eliminate pesticide use on our own property, taking cue from friends in Glastonbury who also do not use chemicals on their property. The husband is a former employee of Dupont, makers of Acelepryn, who quit his job and changed engineering careers after being professionally educated to the hazards of chemicals; the wife has worked as a public health nurse for years.

Unfortunately, our controls within our properties cannot protect our children from toxic exposure on town and state land and toxins that end up in our waterways, contaminating the food chain. Please make appropriate amendments to these bills, vote in favor out of committee and work within your caucuses for final passage.

Thank you for considering this testimony,

Jennifer Siskind

South Glastonbury, CT