

Dear Sirs/Madams,

I am writing in regards to S.B. No 366, an Act Extending the Ban on Use of Lawn Care Pesticides to Schools with Grade 9 to 12. I am the Parks and Recreation Director in Cheshire CT. and we are entering our 9th year using organic products, either in part or in total for all Ball fields in the parks in Cheshire. We began our program on two fields in one specific park and after a successful two years of use we decided to make all our 21 various athletic fields "organic only". We have had tremendous support from the local youth sports leagues and have had virtually no complaints about the conditions of our park playing fields above and beyond the normal wear and tear experienced in all municipal parks.

The areas we have the heaviest use have in fact been treated with seasons of organic compost in addition to the annual program of 3 organic fertilizer applications. We have also had our turf conditions tested on occasion and have treated them with lime or silical, all organic treatments to improve the condition of the turf. In some limited areas we have experienced grub problems but have battled that with overseeding and aeration to strengthen the lawn area where the grubs had appeared.

The commitment to organics was made to increase our efforts to have the children in Cheshire play on safe fields without the exposures involved with synthetic products being used on the fields. We have enjoyed a tremendous amount of success with this program and have not experienced an increase in our maintenance budget. We have worked hard to make this program work and have had the support of our local government as well as the support from the users and the park maintainers who do the actual work on the fields.

Sincerely,

Bob Ceccolini

Director of Parks and Recreation

Cheshire, CT