



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**Testimony
submitted to the
Environment Committee
March 11, 2015**

**SB 366 AN ACT EXTENDING THE BAN ON THE USE OF LAWN CARE PESTICIDES TO
SCHOOLS THAT HOUSE GRADES NINE TO TWELVE, INCLUSIVE, AND TO STATE
FACILITIES**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education is opposed to SB 366, An Act Extending the Ban on the Use of Lawn Care Pesticides to Schools that House Grades None to Twelve, Inclusive, and to State Facilities, which would expand the ban on the use of pesticides to include high school athletic fields. The experience of k-8 schools, which currently operate under this ban, illustrates why this would be detrimental to the safety of students. While k-8 schools were able to maintain fields in playable condition using the best management practices of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) until that program was sunset on July 1, 2010, since then many districts have found it impossible to maintain their fields, and have found infestation of insects, both stinging athletes and damaging turf. Athletic fields have become unplayable due to hard and uneven playing surfaces. As a result, students are forced to play games on town park and recreation fields, which are not subject to the ban. This winter will likely have an even worse effect on conditions. As students get on fields before they are dried out they may further remove the sparse grass patches.

The proposal to expand the ban on pesticide use to high school fields will lead to additional fields becoming unsafe and unplayable.

We urge you to reject this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.