

March 12, 2015
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters
Testimony to the Environment Committee
Submitted by Lori Brown, Executive Director

For the last 16 years, the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters has tracked progress on reducing harm from pesticides applied on land and in our waters. The Connecticut General Assembly took a large step forward in 2009 with a ban on lawn-care pesticides for pre-school through eighth grade. We have been in a stalemate since then, with efforts to eliminate the ban and efforts to extend it canceling each other out. But we look urgently for progress in this session toward a reduction in the toxic chemicals that are released into our environment, especially when children are exposed.

As drafted, SB 1063 and SB 366 are problematic. But we believe that the recommendations of the various advocates working in coalition to address this issue are sound and we hope you will consider amending the language to craft environment-friendly bills to break the gridlock.

Leading science and medical researchers have provided clear evidence of the negative health and environmental impacts of various pesticides. We do not believe there is honest controversy over the science, so we agree with our environmental colleagues that the creation of a new or revived pesticides advisory board would merely stall progress.

Any legislation that emerges from the Environment Committee should contain these basic concepts, without rolling back any of our existing laws:

- * **Extend the ban on lawn-care pesticide applications, preferably to high school playing fields, parks and public playgrounds**
- * **Do not roll back any existing pesticide bans**
- * **Enhance communication and education about pesticide applications with signage on playing fields, parks and public playgrounds that describes the toxins applied**
- * **Promote the tools available to groundskeepers to maintain safe, toxic-free fields**

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters urges the Environment Committee to consider the issue of pesticides to be a top priority this session and looks to you for leadership in passage of legislation that we can support.