



COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

February 16, 2015

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

HB 5139 “An Act Concerning the Use of Recycled Tire Rubber at Municipal and Public School Playgrounds”

This bill would prohibit shredded or ground rubber recycled from motor vehicle tires to be installed in municipal and public school playgrounds. CCM appreciates the intent behind this proposal, however has concerns that, as currently drafted, may have unintended consequences.

While we understand the concerns regarding adverse health effects that may be associated with chemicals in tires, playgrounds built with crumb rubber may provide a soft surface that is safer for children to play on than the alternative materials. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, along with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection conducted a studies examining possible detrimental impacts on children who play sports on artificial turf fields cushioned with crumb rubber infill, both on indoor and outdoor fields. Based on the findings, it was determined that *“outdoor and indoor artificial turf fields are not associated with elevated health risks from the inhalation of volatile or particle-bound chemicals.”* There was caution made in the study regarding indoor fields and ensuring proper ventilation is available.

CCM would caution that restricting the different types of materials that towns and cities can use will limit, and therefore, possibly increase the cost of other materials. In addition, there is an EPA plan to study crumb rubber turf fields and playgrounds which will be made available in late 2016.

CCM urges the Committee to wait until the EPA plan has been finalized before taking any action on HB 5139.



If you have any questions, please contact Alexandra Beaudoin, Legislative Associate, at abeaudoin@ccm-ct.org or (860) 670-4021.