

**CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
TESTIMONY BEFORE  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**In Support of HB5139 An Act Concerning The Use of Recycled Tire Rubber At Municipal  
And Public School Playgrounds  
FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

**Joyce Acebo~Raguskus, Chair Diesel Cleanup, Environmental Concerns Coalition,  
CLEAN WATER ACTION, Advocate, Coalition For A Safe & Healthy CT, 350CT  
174 Eastern Parkway  
Milford, CT 06460**

**Good morning, my name is Joyce Acebo~Raguskus, 174 Eastern Parkway and as an advocate with Coalition For A Safe & Healthy CT and concern for our young population I support HB5139 An Act Concerning Use Of Recycled Tire Rubber At Municipal & Public School Playgrounds.**

**The use of toxic tire rubber must be prohibited as the research for the toxic chemicals and levels especially in heated temperatures, and extent of levels, which actually enter the bodies of children playing in the fields, still remains unknown.**

**What we do know is that natural grass remains a healthy alternative especially when organic applications are used. Another thing we do know is that are children are already exposed to toxic chemicals in utero and that they are born with over 250 toxic chemicals. Yes we are growing and delivering toxic babies into this new world. This reality is not acceptable. To further expose children to the unknown ramifications of what we do know as toxic, is not at all a healthy playing field and beyond reproach.**

**We do know that exposures to chemicals present in crumb rubber at high levels, typical of studies are known to cause neurological and developmental deficits and cancer. The mixture of chemicals is not what you want served at your family dinner table nor having your child rolling around in. Crumb rubber made from recycled tires contains a mixture of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PHA's), volatile organic compounds referred to as VOC's and heavy metals such as lead, zinc, iron and manganese.**

**Exposures with our children are through the SKIN contact (children's skin barrier is not thick as older individuals)...chemicals absorbs directly through contact, INGESTING (through hand/mouth) and INHALATION. Know that research with these toxic chemical exposures has not been firmly established and allergic reaction's also play a role. It important that The Children's Health Committee be keenly aware that the lack of sound research addressing multiple exposures to this UNECESSARY TURF is putting our children again at even higher risk to increase the toxicity levels in their blood and growing bodies and must be prohibited.**

**The contents of this testimony is cited through the Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center, "What To Know About Artificial Turf Fields" and we are most appreciative of their continued dedicated research provided.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to further take steps of prevention and protection for our the health and well being of our Connecticut children and families.**

**Joyce Acebo~Raguskus, 174 Eastern Parkway, Milford, CT 06460**

