



Written Testimony  
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***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF RESIDENTIAL AUTOMATIC PESTICIDE MISTING SYSTEMS***

Environment Committee  
Friday, February 23, 2018

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Senator Kennedy, Senator Miner, Representative Demicco, Representative Harding and the distinguished members of the Environment Committee, my name is Mike Wallace and I am the president of the Connecticut Environmental Council (CTEC). I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in support of SB104, An Act Prohibiting the Use of Residential Automatic Pesticide Misting Systems.

CTEC is a membership organization representing associations and professionals. Our membership includes the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association, the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, the Connecticut Pest Control Association, the Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association, Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, and Connecticut Tree Wardens Association.

We support **SB104 An Act Prohibiting the Use of Residential Automatic Pesticide Misting Systems**. The use of residential pesticide misting systems does not support an integrated pest management approach to controlling mosquito populations.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Defined<sup>1</sup>**

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an “effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices.”

**IPM Approach, Defined by the Environmental Protection Agency**

- **Set Action Thresholds:** Decide at what point pest populations or conditions require action.
- **Monitor and Identify Pests:** Identify pests and their risk accurately, in order to take appropriate action when thresholds are reached.
- **Prevention:** Control pests before they become a problem through proper maintenance and sanitation.
- **Control:** When an action threshold is identified and preventative measures are no longer an option, effective pest control options are thoroughly evaluated. These include biological, mechanical and chemical options. The EPA states, “Effective, less risky pest controls are chosen.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/integrated-pest-management-ipm-principles#what>

A successful integrated mosquito control strategy includes several tactics to eliminate mosquitoes and their habitat. Four critical tactics include<sup>2</sup>:

### Remove Mosquito Habitats

An important part of mosquito control around homes is making sure that mosquitoes don't have a place to lay their eggs. Because mosquitoes need water for two stages of their life cycle, it's important to monitor standing water sources.

- Get rid of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least once a week to eliminate potential mosquito habitats.
- Drain temporary pools of water or fill with dirt.
- Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating.

### Use Structural Barriers

Using structural barriers is an important way to reduce the incidence of bites. Examples of structural barriers include:

- Install window and door screens if they are not already in place.
- Cover all gaps in walls, doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering.
- Make sure window and door screens are "bug tight."
- Completely cover baby carriers and beds with netting.

### Control Mosquitoes at the Larval Stage

The greatest impact on mosquito populations will occur when they are concentrated, immobile and accessible. This emphasis focuses on habitat management and controlling the immature stages (egg, larva, and pupa) before the mosquitoes emerge as adults. This approach maximizes the effectiveness of pesticide application and minimizes the use from widespread pesticide application. Larvicides target larvae in the breeding habitat before they can mature into adult mosquitoes and disperse. Larvicide treatment of breeding habitats helps reduce the adult mosquito population in nearby areas.

Egg and larva interventions are generally the most effective, least costly, way to control mosquitoes. There are a number of EPA-registered active ingredients used in larvicides. Choosing which larvicide to use in a given area is best done by experts and will depend on a variety of factors, including potential human or environmental risk, cost, resistance, and ease of use.

### Control Adult Mosquitoes

There are a number of registered adulticides to choose from. Choosing which adulticide to use in a given area is a job best done by experts and will depend on a variety of factors such as the

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/success-mosquito-control-integrated-approach>

type of mosquito, whether the mosquitoes are resistant to particular types of pesticides, weather, etc.

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