Members of the Environment Committee

State Capitol

Hartford, CT 06106-1562

RE: S.B. No. 76, An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Restrict the Use of Pesticides in Certain Areas of the Municipality or on Certain Types of Properties -- Oppose

Co-Chairs Cohen and Demicco and distinguished members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. No. 76.

Connecticut has a long-standing, comprehensive and uniform program of pesticide regulation administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. DEEP is responsible for pesticide product registration, research, enforcement and licensing of professional applicators. State law recognizes that DEEP has the staff expertise and the scientific resources needed to properly regulate pesticides and their use in Connecticut. Consumers, professionals and municipalities can be confident in DEEP’s state-level pesticide regulatory program and expertise. DEEP and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have significant staff resources devoted to reviewing and understanding the proper uses, risks and benefits of pesticides before registering them for use. The manufacture, sale and use of pesticides is extensively regulated by U.S. EPA.

Uniform state law comprehensively regulates virtually every aspect of pesticide use, including distribution, packaging, sale, transport and storage. State-level regulation of pesticides also ensures uniformity with federal regulation and between states to avoid confusion that may endanger public health and safety from differing requirements and to avoid increased costs to the people of Connecticut to comply with differing requirements from town to town and city to city.

Pesticides serve important public health and environmental purposes, protecting people, pets and property from mosquito- and tick-borne diseases, managing and eradicating invasive and non-native species, and providing safe and healthy places to live, work and play. Pesticides are rigorously reviewed, evaluated and approved for sale and use at the state and federal levels on an ongoing basis, ensuring they meet the most current scientific and safety standards. Further, DEEP and U.S. EPA registered pesticides have scientifically-proven efficacy, which is necessary in many pest management and control situations.

Ordinances limiting or restricting pesticide use on any parcel of real property at the municipal level are unnecessary given the rigor and comprehensiveness of DEEP’s regulatory program. A patchwork of local regulation would create confusion and the potential for increases in infestations of rats, mice, bed bugs, ticks, mosquitoes, and poisonous, invasive and noxious
weeds that harm public health, safety, ecosystems and infrastructure. Residents should continue to have the choice about how they manage pests on their property, including applying state and federally registered pesticides.

We ask you to support maintaining state-level jurisdiction by DEEP for pesticide regulation and to OPPOSE S.B. No. 76.

Respectfully submitted,

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RISE is the national trade association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders engaged with the specialty pesticide and fertilizer solutions used by consumers and professionals.