



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PHILIP MILLER  
THIRTY-SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Representative Frank Nicastro  
Chairmen of the Pest Management Working Group,  
MORE Mandates Sub-Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 4034  
Hartford, CT 06019

Dear Chairmen Nicastro,

I am writing to respond to recent testimony alleging that the state's ban on pesticides on pre K through 8th grade is onerous, oppressive, and costly.

I had testified to the legislature eight years ago as a small town First Selectman. I was in favor of not using pesticides because our local school board was concerned that young people are particularly vulnerable to chemicals found in common pesticides, and that childhood brain cancer, leukemia, learning and behavioral disorders, reproductive disorders, and adult cancers have been on the rise.

There is an ever growing consensus that Federal legislation regulating chemicals in consumer products is inadequate. Producers of products often submit their own data, and it is casually accepted. This has increasingly left oversight to individual and regional state efforts. I have attached some academic studies which are from such legitimate organizations as the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, and the National Academy of Sciences.

Many municipalities have adjusted and successfully changed to sustainable turf and field management. The most successful have typically been amending the soil with beneficial compost to grow the best quality grasses, as opposed to the former treatment of killing weeds with pesticides. They use organic corn gluten to combat grubs instead of toxic chemicals. Most have found that after an initial investment in sustainable treatment, that it is less expensive in the long run to maintain and improve fields and turf quality.

Since these laws have been passed and amended, the huge corporate entities that produce the chemicals have hired lobbying efforts to repeal our efforts, and they attempt to cast doubt on

the wisdom of such inhibitive legislation, and dissatisfied local landscapers who have been schooled by chemical corporate endowed academic institutions have lamented that they have been left with deteriorating playing fields.

The state of New York has successfully used sustainable practice on pre K through high school. Not IPM, which is falsely touted as more reasonable, but organic and sustainable treatment and enhancement of public recreational space.

Just this past week, the World Health Organization has predicted a 57% increase in cancer over the next twenty years. They are suggesting greater emphasis on prevention, and cutting subsidies for chemicals, antibiotics and pesticides. That we can pay now for organically grown produce and natural turf lawns, or we can continue to pay ever increasing costs of treating disease.

We have an obligation to uphold public health, and we can do this by reducing and eliminating exposure to toxic chemicals used in landscaping.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Miller".

Representative Philip Miller  
36<sup>th</sup> District