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SB 916 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL RESTRICTION OF LAWN CARE PESTICIDES.

To allow municipalities to restrict the use of pesticides used for the cosmetic care of lawn and turf.

To: Chair Senator Andrea Stillman, Chair Representative Richard Roy and Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Nancy Alderman and I am President of Environment and Human Health, Inc. a non-profit organization comprised of ten members who are physicians, public health professionals and policy experts. We investigate where the environment is harming human health and try to bring policy changes that will better protect the public from environmental harms.

Presently the pesticide industry has kept towns and cities in Connecticut from being able to be more protective of their citizens from pesticide exposures than the state government.

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Tobacco did the same thing in Connecticut a few years ago. The reasoning is, it is easier and more cost effective for industry to lobby at the state level than in each town.

As indicated in Landscape Management Magazine, February 4, 2005 issue, the pesticide industry has now placed preemption restrictions in 30 states - Connecticut being one of them. Industry has also targeted Connecticut as a state to make sure that no protective pesticide legislation passes.

To quote Allen James, President of RISE, the trade group for pesticide applicators, in the February 4 issue of Landscape Management Magazine,” We are watching the entire United States, but particularly the border states of New York, **Connecticut**, Maine, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Washington for any activity relative to banning pesticides, especially for outdoor lawn care and parks.”

In April of 2004, Ontario's College of Family Physicians urged Canadians to limit their exposures to pesticides after they had reviewed studies showing their strong links with serious illnesses. The doctors warned people to avoid exposures to pesticides whenever and wherever possible.

Over 70 towns in Canada have now either banned lawn-care pesticide use or have begun bans on lawn-care pesticide uses. This has been done to protect human health.

Bill SB 016 will allow towns and cities to be MORE protective of their citizen's health than the state government presently is willing to be.

There are over 200 pesticides approved for lawns and trees - but only about 35 of them are used on over 90% of lawns. These pesticides are tested one chemical at a time, yet humans are exposed to lawn-care pesticides in combinations. For instance, 2,4-D, Dicamba and MCPP are all found in “Weed ‘N Feed” products and yet they have never been tested for their health effects in those combinations.

Pesticides have many health effects. Of the 35 most commonly used, many are toxic to the nervous system, some are carcinogenic, and some of them can cause reproductive problems. Many pesticides are endocrine disrupters and can either mimic female and male hormones or block the hormone receptors in the human body.

Industry will claim that allowing towns and cities to be more protective of citizen's health will create a patchwork across the state that will be hard for industry. This is a bogus

argument. Zoning laws are different in different towns and the building contractors manage those differences quite easily.

Industry will also claim that towns do not have the expertise to regulate pesticides. In some instances this is true. That is why many towns will choose to be more protective of their citizens and simply ban their uses - especially in those towns where their citizens are on private residential wells. A town can ban lawn-care pesticide uses and still allow exemptions for Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus and mud burrowing stinging insects.

Environment and Human Health, Inc. tested private wells in Woodbridge, Connecticut for pesticides in 1999, and found 11% of the wells tested had pesticides in them, and most contained more than one pesticide. This study showed lawn-care pesticide do indeed infiltrate private wells.

The State must allow towns to be able to protect their own citizen's health – especially when the State itself is unwilling to take stricter steps to protect Connecticut citizens.

Thank you,

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.