

PA13-262

HB5480

Environment	1899-1905, 1917-1921, 1924-1925, 1926-1931, 1995-2013, 2016, 2080, 2081, 2273-2289, 2291, 2292, 2294, 2298-2298A, 2299-2302, 2306-2307, 2309-2329, 2446	92
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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 21
6911 – 7260**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Substitute Senate Bill 808 AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC
COMMENT FOR CERTAIN LONG-TERM CARE POLICY RATE
INCREASE REQUESTS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Aresimowicz.

REP. ARESIMOWICZ (30th):

Thank you again, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I
move this is also referred to the Committee on
Appropriations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

With no objection, so ordered.

Would the Clerk please call Calendar Number 315.

THE CLERK:

Calendar Number 315 on Page 44 of today's
Calendar, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing
Committee on Appropriations, Substitute House Bill
5480 AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF
CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
PLANT SCIENCE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FACILITY AND
PROHIBITING TAMPERING WITH HYDRANTS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

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Good afternoon, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Representative Gentile, you have the floor, madam.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe the Clerk is in possession of an amendment, LCO 8056. I ask that the Clerk please call it and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 8056, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

House Amendment "A", LCO 8056 as offered by Representative Gentile.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the Amendment. Is there objection to summarization? Is there objection? Hearing none,

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Representative Gentile, you may proceed with
summarization, madam.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, this is
a small Amendment, which makes some technical changes
basically eliminating Section 1 of this bill and
renumbering the rest of the sections accordingly.

Section 2 has a change to the effective date to
October 1, 2013.

Section 3 actually is references to internal
statutes and conforming language and strikes Section 4
in its entirety, which then becomes the bill.

Madam Speaker, I move for adoption of the
Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of
House Amendment Schedule "A". Will you remark on the
Amendment? Will you remark on the Amendment?
Representative Cafero of the 142nd.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon to you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Good afternoon to you, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

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Through you, madam Speaker, a few questions to the proponent of the Amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Please frame your question, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, the Amendment before us strikes out Section 1 and Section 4. Does that mean the only thing left is Section 2 and 3?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile, you have the Floor, madam.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. That is absolutely correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Madam Speaker, the sections that are being struck, is that a right word, I don't know, struck from this underlying bill, 1 and 4, what did they do and why do we no longer want them to do that?

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Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, I do not know.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero, you still have the Floor,
sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I say this with all due respect to the gentle woman, Chair of the Environment Committee. We have before us a five-page, four-section bill. We have an Amendment before us that strikes out two of the four sections and for the edification of the Chamber and those who do not serve on the Environment Committee, I think before we could make an informed decision on how to vote on this, it would be nice to have some knowledge as to what Section 1 and Section 4 do because we're no longer doing that based on this Amendment.

I wonder if the Chair of the Environment Committee could help us in that regard. Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, I'd be happy to. Section 1 involved doing an assessment of pesticides that were being used or might be used at the University of Connecticut, which I believe is either being put some place else or is no longer needed.

And Section 4 also involves something with the University of Connecticut relative to operating expenses, I believe of, for toward the assessment and that is no longer needed as well.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero you still have the Floor, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, through you, is there a, you referenced maybe being put somewhere else. Is there another bill that would encompass the matter set out in Section 1 that's being struck by this Amendment?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

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Through you, Madam Speaker, there may be but not being a proponent of the original section there, I would not know that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, if the good gentle woman could explain the significance and import of Section 3, and I realize it has a list of numerous, numerous, two pages, three pages worth of citations to statute.

What is the effect of Section 3 that would be remaining if we were to adopt the Amendment that's before us? Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, once again, my belief is that these are references to existing statutes and rules and regulations that are currently in existence and this just gives conformity to that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, Madam Speaker, I note in Section 2, where based on this Amendment the effective date is being changed, that there is a \$500 fine for anyone who's committed to the first offense as laid out in Section 2 and \$1,000 fine for any subsequent offense.

I guess my question was, did this portion of the bill or the bill itself ever go before the Judiciary Committee?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, one moment please. Through you, Madam Speaker, as I look through the bill history it did go through Appropriations and Environment. It did not go to Judiciary.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Through you, Madam Speaker, with my limited knowledge of the proceedings and rules of this General Assembly, it's my understanding that when we have a bill before us that calls for a fine, certainly a fine

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of \$500 and \$1,000, that bill should properly go
before the Judiciary Committee.

And so, with the indulgence of this Chamber, I
would move that this bill be referred to the Judiciary
Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Would the House stand at ease.

(CHAMBER AT EASE.)

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Yes, Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that
through the aide of my Caucus that the answer to my
question is that the fines called for in Section 2 do
not meet the threshold amounts that would make it
mandatory for the bill to be referred to the Judiciary
Committee, and having had that answer, I will gladly
withdraw my motion for referral.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Before I accept your withdrawal, sir, I'd like to
bring the House, the Chamber back to order, and your
withdrawal is accepted, sir.

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REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Once again for the record, I will withdraw my motion for referral.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Thank you very much. You still have the Floor, Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Again, in Section 2 I guess my question would be, with regard to Section 2, which effective date we're changing by virtue of this Amendment.

Is it not already, in other words, without this bill is it possible for people to open, operate or take water or tamper with a hydrant and not face any repercussions?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the good gentleman for the question.

Yes, we received testimony in the Environment Committee that there are some instances where contractors or construction and paving contractors,

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landscapers, pool companies, are hooking up to fire hydrants and not using the necessary backflow supplies that are used to help relieve or eliminate any contaminates going into the drinking water and that's the reason for this bill.

Currently, there is a fine in place of \$500. This is just enforcing that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm sorry, the last part of the answer threw me. Is the good gentle woman indicating that there currently, under current law is a fine for improperly taking water from a hydrant?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, in reading the background history, yes, there is currently, a violator would be subject to a fine of up to \$500.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero, you still have the Floor, sir.

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REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Then I guess I would ask, if that is already the law, how does this change that law or make it more or less enforceable?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, this bill would increase those fines and more importantly, would allow any violators to mail in their fine to the Bureau of Infractions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Madam Speaker, how do the fines currently get paid? Through you, Madam Speaker.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, I do not know that answer I apologize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero, you still have the Floor, sir.

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REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Through you, Madam Speaker, is it fair to say that the change with regard to this bill as opposed to current law --

REP. GENTILE (104th

Madam Speaker.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Through you, Madam Speaker, the good gentle woman I guess would like to answer my first question, so I yield to her.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Thank you, sir. Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for your indulgence. Yes. I just found, currently the fine would require the violator to appear in court. This would allow them to mail in their infraction without an appearance in court. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Yes, through you, Madam Speaker, under current law is the second offense, if you will, or second violation of this provision, would it result in a

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\$1,000 fine as called for in this bill? Through you,
Madam Speaker, under current law?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Madam Speaker, no, it does not
specify that. It's up to \$500. The new law would
change that.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the gentle
woman for her answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Will you remark further? Will you remark
further? Representative Shaban of the 135th.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in support of
the Amendment, not so much because of what it will do
as a result, but of what it did in striking what I
believe to be was unnecessary and patchwork
regulation.

So I think the last soliloquy about the fire
hydrant fines and how they fit and where it's all

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going to fit is teased out what I was going to ask on that, but again, the deletion of Sections 1 and 4 I think was the right move as raised.

Those sections raised a lot of concerns in Committee and I'm glad to see that throughout the process those concerns were addressed and maybe we'll take another run at it in a different vehicle, so I urge support. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Thank you, sir. Representative Stallworth of the 126th. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the Amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

All those opposed, Nay? The Ayes have it and the Amendment is adopted.

Will you remark further on the bill as amended?
Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Candelora of the 86th.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

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Thank you, Madam Speaker, if I may, just a question regarding Section 2 to the Chair of the Environment Committee?

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Please frame your question, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I understand, I think, the underlying intent of the bill and as I read this, there are certainly at times fire hydrants located on private property, the water which is taken out potentially by the individual that might own that private property and they're metered for that water consumption.

In that type of circumstance, would the bill subject that individual to any type of fine?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile, will you respond?

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the good gentleman for his question. No, they would not be subject to a fine as long as they have the permission of the water company or the utility company.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

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Representative Candelora, you still have the
Floor, sir.

REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. And in the bill in
Lines 25, it also has language of either or, so they
would either need permission of the water company or
they would have the legal authority to take such
action.

And so, could that be another scenario where if a
company has these hydrants on their properties,
they're metered for the water, so they pay for the
water. If they choose to open those hydrants for
whatever reason, under that section, under Line 25, am
I correct that they would have that authority to do so
and would not be subject to the fine? Through you,
Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank the good
gentleman for his question for legislative intent, and
he is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative Candelora.

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REP. CANDELORA (86th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate those answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Representative P. Miller of the 36th.

Representative P. Miller of the 36th.

REP. MILLER (36th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. I think that all of us would do well to be a little concerned that in not just modern Connecticut, but in modern America there is such a reliance on petrochemical fertilizers and pesticides and herbicides and the marketing power of the huge companies that produce these things is really very profound and they endow lots of institutions, including right here in Connecticut, and my concern is that when they endow these academic institutions, especially those who give accreditation to people who work professionally in the field, they're really promoting all of their own products and their viewpoints.

And throughout Connecticut, we've spoken to a number of people academics, scientists, who have confirmed to us that in our entire state, all of our

impounded bodies of water, ponds and lakes, are typically all overburdened with nutrient rich pollution, which largely comes from lawn chemicals which are over-applied.

A generation ago this was not something that we even dealt with. People didn't have these lawns that were up to the standards that are now promoted, and the concern is that all of these chemicals in combinations and concentrations that are not found in nature, eventually don't just disappear and they don't just leave a place benign but many of these things percolate in the water, and that water that's standing recharges our ground water, our aquifer, which is our drinking water, so it behooves us to be very careful with this and again, we're up against something that is really profound.

But throughout Connecticut, as I said, all of our ponds and lakes, particularly those who have long been noted for their clarity and view and purity of their water, are now overburdened with typically submerged aquatic vegetation, which harms the ecological and recreational vitality of these bodies of water and it compromises their value to us as well.

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And so I would just like to urge support of this. I think it's a good bill. It seeks to look academically at the use of these pesticides and herbicides and particularly for the residential neighborhoods in the vicinity of the University, this would give them a good feeling of ease to know that they can potentially get some answers here if we look at these very carefully.

So I would urge support of this bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the bill as amended? Will you remark further on the bill as amended?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Will the Members please take your seats. The machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

Will Members please return to the Chamber immediately.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

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Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted?
Will the Members please check the board to determine
if your vote is properly cast.

If all Members have voted, the machine will be
locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the
Clerk please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 5480 as amended by House
"A".

Total Number Voting	146
Necessary for Passage	74
Those voting Yea	146
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	4

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

The bill as amended is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 519.

THE CLERK:

On Page 20, Calendar 519, Madam Speaker,
Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on
Judiciary. Substitute House Bill 6694 AN ACT
CONCERNING THE INHERENT RIGHTS OF A CHILD WHO WAS BORN
AFTER THE DEATH OF A MARRIED PARENT.

DEPUTY SPEAKER MILLER:

**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VETO
SESSION**

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The Senate will come back to order.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you.

Mr. President, one additional item to add to the Consent Calendar before moving for a vote on the Consent Calendar and that is Calendar page 12, Calendar 672, House Bill Number 5480. I move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

I would now ask the clerk to list --

Yes, Mr. President, an additional item for the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. President.

On the Calendar, under Favorable Reports and Resolutions, Calendar page 21, Calendar 431, Senate Resolution Number 15, would move to place that item on the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Without objection, so ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, if the clerk would now call -- would now list the items on the Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on the Consent Calendar before taking up additional items.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Page 2 -- sorry -- House Bill 6672, and then on page 2, Calendar 423, House Bill 5907.

On page 4, Calendar 464, House Bill 5601; Calendar 465, House Bill 6630.

On page 5: 485, House Bill 6602; Calendar 503, House Bill 6635.

On page 6: Calendar 19, House Bill 5903; Calendar 522, House Bill 5598.

On page 7: Calendar 570, House Bill 6486; Calendar 571, House Bill 6492.

On page 8: Calendar 601, House Bill 6490; Calendar 606, House Bill 6674.

On page 10, Calendar 644, House Bill 6363.

On page 12, Calendar 668, House Bill 6362; and Calendar 672, House Bill 548.

On page 15: Calendar 695, House Bill 5289; Calendar 696, House Bill 6658.

On page 16: Calendar 704, House Bill 6692; 705, House Bill 6703.

On page 17: Calendar 706, House Bill 6651.

And on page 21: Calendar 431, Senate Resolution Number 15.

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THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, please announce the pendency of a roll call vote, the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.
Senators please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Have all members have voted? If all members have voted, please check the board to make sure your vote is accurately recorded.

If all members have recorded, the machine will be closed and the clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

The second Consent Calendar

Total Number Voting	35
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	0

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar Number 2 passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I just wanted to review and have we adopted Senate Agendas 3 and 4?

THE CHAIR:

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 6
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property and certainly I would be very supportive of the bill. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Representative Miller.

Any other questions?

Thanks, Commissioner. Appreciate.

COMMISSIONER STEVEN K. REVICZKY: You're welcome. And I was remiss, Senator Chapin, in recognizing all the hard work over time of the representative from Southbury who has been a champion of the protection of this property for as long as I can remember. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Our next witness is Greg Weidemann followed by Tom Callahan and then Representative Haddad.

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: Good morning. I'm Greg Wiedemann. I'm dean of the College of Agriculture and National Resources at the University of Connecticut and I'm going to provide a little bit of testimony on House Bill 5480.

SENATOR MEYER: I apologize for the mispronunciation of your name.

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: That's fine.

In the interest of time, I see you have a very full agenda. I've submitted written testimony so I'll just hit a few highlights from that testimony. This is in reference to our plant and science research and education facility which is located about two miles south of the Storrs campus. This facility serves as our primary research education outreach facility

in the plants and sciences and has served that purpose for almost 100 years.

On an annual basis, we conduct about \$2 million worth of externally-funded research on that site and also serves as the primary learning laboratory for our students in the plant sciences. For producers, this facility serves as our primary source of field-related research on best management practices. It's very reflective of agriculture in the state, in the plant science arena. Reflective agriculture portion of our research does include the use of pesticides as well as alternative control strategies. Of the 153 acres of that site, about 40 acres is under active cultivation and less than 20 of those acres receives a pesticide application on an annual basis.

As a publicly-supported institution, UCONN recognizes the need to serve as an example for land stewardship and the safe use of pesticides. We recognize our need to be held to the highest standards; therefore, UConn has greatly exceeded any statutory requirements for recordkeeping, reporting and monitoring. This is supported by an extensive study of the drainage, soil characteristics and hydrology of the site. We've established monitoring wells at the downslope margin of the property which are tested annually both for nitrates as well as an extensive list of pesticides that we use on the site. By federal law, UConn cannot test any pesticides that have not been specifically permitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Although we believe we have all the appropriate procedures and protocols in place, we would invite the appropriate state agencies as dictated by this bill, to review our procedures and monitoring system and make any appropriate

recommendations for change.

So that's all my oral testimony and I'll address any questions that you have.

SENATOR MEYER: Dean, thank you. This bill asks that DEEP would make this assessment. Any idea of the cost?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: We haven't had discussions with DEEP. Of course, as dean of the college, I would hope that DEEP would do it on a voluntary basis, but there has been no specific discussions with them about the relative costs of conducting the evaluation.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. I think we would be upset if OFA comes in with a big cost and you might want to chat with Dan Esty about this.

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: I can do that.

SENATOR MEYER: And see if they'll do it within their available resources, as we call it.

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: Yeah. We have quite extensive studies available for them to review so they should be -- I would hope relatively straightforward.

SENATOR MEYER: It's an important assessment.

Members of the committee?

Yes, Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Good to see. How are you?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: Just fine.

REP. WILLIS: Always a pleasure. I have a question. You said that they were -- the pesticides you are using are federally approved. Are they newly registered pesticides or are any of them used, you know, that were grandfathered?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: Well, there is no such thing as a grandfathered pesticide.

REP. WILLIS: Well, I meant newly approved. They've gone through the newer regulatory testing.

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: So it would be a range. You know, again, because we're looking at existing practices so we would be using some of the same pesticides that perhaps a homeowner or a farmer or a greenhouse operation might use and at the same time looking at new technologies that enter the marketplace so that we can appropriately advise individuals in plant-related industries about how well they work for their intended purpose. So it would be a mix of both existing pesticides as well as those that are entering the marketplace.

REP. WILLIS: And are you using any of IPM methods?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: Yeah. A number of our studies are related to IPM methodologies so if you look at the research that we conduct at the farm, it really spans and mimics what you see in Connecticut so some of our work is strictly organic, some of the work looks at low input sustainable systems, some are directed at IPM methodology to reduce the use of pesticides and some reflect high input systems that exist in the state.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

SENATOR MEYER: Any other questions?

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It's -- it seems to me that there may be some redundancy in this bill from what we presently have in place. Am I correct in assuming that procedures for storage and application are already governed by federal and state law?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: Correct.

SENATOR CHAPIN: And who enforces that?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: We meet the standards. It's subject to inspection. I would say the EPA probably generally would not do that, but the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection always has the right to come in and inspect our -- our facilities. Certain pesticides, we report back to DEEP on an annual basis if we use them.

SENATOR CHAPIN: And -- so if you have ever been cited for improper storage or application?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: No.

SENATOR CHAPIN: It also talks about the review of the protocols used to ensure safe application and I know, for example, a farmer needs to be a certified pesticide applicator. Do you have people applying pesticides that are somehow exempt from similar certifications?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: No. Actually for some of our work, our -- our faculty or farm personnel have to get specific certifications for the

application of pesticides. We also, as a university, conduct a training program for pesticide applicators of the state.

SENATOR CHAPIN: Well, that seems a little ironic that you're being accused then of -- maybe accused is a strong word -- that there is concern that you're doing this stuff improperly when you are the entity that is responsible for training other. Is that -- did I characterize that in a --

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: I would say --

SENATOR CHAPIN: -- factually correct way?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: -- that for our purposes I feel fairly confident that our individuals are following all -- all current existing statutory requirements both at the state and federal level and fairly confident, but have no problem with another state entity looking at what we're doing.

SENATOR CHAPIN: And as far as a water testing regiment, again, I have to assume that that's already addressed to through regulation or statute.

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: We've gone well beyond regulatory requirements. If you look at for instance with our monitoring wells that aren't being used as a water source, there really is no requirement to test that whatsoever. This goes well beyond the testing regime for -- for potable water in the state, which would be limited really to looking at coliform bacteria and nitrates.

SENATOR CHAPIN: So you're presently voluntarily testing for things in excess of what's required by law?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: Correct. We understand that there are neighbor concerns and we've tried to address those.

SENATOR CHAPIN: Okay. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Senator.

Okay, Dean. We appreciate it.

I'm sorry. Yes, Representative Vicino.

REP. VICINO: You mentioned at the beginning of your testimony that your externally granted 2.5 million. What kind of grants are those and where are they coming from?

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: This would be from a mix so a number of them are from federal granting agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some of the work that we do is for state agencies including the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Some of that is from foundations, some of it from private industries that provide grants for specific types of research. So it's a big mix.

REP. VICINO: And the private industry, you're assessing their pesticides I would assume.

GREGORY WEIDEMANN: Correct. That -- one of the things that many public universities in the agricultural setting is to look to evaluate those products so we can appropriately advise producers on what's most effective for their needs.

REP. VICINO: Thank you.

I believe, and it has to be the first six.

REP. WILLIS: Okay. Maybe we need to look at that.

SENATOR MEYER: We did get a letter, Representative, from the Invasive Plants Council indicating that this running bamboo does not fit within the definition of an invasive plant, and therefore, we're dealing with it separately.

ROBIN ARCARESE: Interesting. It looks invasive to me. Interestingly enough, I believe at the meeting where they voted to make a recommendation rather than to ban it, the two people that voted yes, it's invasive, where botanists so I found that just interesting. That's all.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Thank you, Robin.

ROBIN ARCARESE: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Our next witness is Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD: Good morning, Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin and other members of the Environment Committee. I'm here to testify in support of House Bill 5480, AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM. I introduced the legislation which you drafted into a committee bill to help resolve a long-standing dispute between the University of Connecticut and a group of Mansfield citizens who reside in a neighborhood -- neighborhoods adjacent to the farm.

All of the properties that border the research facility are -- or are nearby have private or

deep water wells and for purposes of open disclosure I want you to know that I, myself, live in the neighborhood closest to the farm. Like other farms, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides are used during the regular course of business and the University has publicly disclosed the use of these materials. These pesticides include many materials known to be potentially harmful, but are used commercially. The number of pesticides used or stored at the farm is greater than 90. And if you can get an idea of the breadth of the chemicals and products used by looked at Attachment C of the OLR report I attached to my testimony. This is a list of the nonproprietary pesticide applications records for 2011.

However, importantly, the UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility is not like other agricultural farms in the state. I believe this farm is the only university-run experimental research farm in Connecticut, and as such, UConn uses pesticides in a manner that would not be allowed by other parties. Much of the work is aimed at increasing the allowable uses of commercially-used pesticides, but what is notable about these experiments is while they are using -- is that they are using materials in a manner that is inconsistent with the approved label recommendations and much of the research is conducted under research grants that prohibit the university from disclosing material or how it is used.

Additionally, while UConn contends that most of the pesticides are commercially available, they stop well short of guaranteeing that no new to market experimental pesticides are not being applied. Attachment D in the OLR report that I've attached to my testimony -- again,

it's the last two pages of that report -- list the proprietary pesticides applied at the research farm from 2009 to 2011. The records lists over 30 chemical ingredients that are not disclosed for proprietary reasons. Many of my residents -- many of the residents in the neighboring properties are worried. They are concerned for their own health and well-being. Some have stopped drinking their well water all together. Other have installed carbon filters in their homes.

Some have had their water tested for the presence of the known pesticides, but this effort, as I mentioned before, is significantly hampered because the university will not or cannot disclose all of the materials because of the private proprietary nature of the research and so it is impossible for private well water -- private well water owners or our local department of health or anyone else to test for the presence of these pesticides in our drinking water. UConn has implemented a testing regime using wells on their research farm property. What we know about their testing program is that they check their wells for the presence of only 30 percent of the pesticides used at the farm.

They have repeatedly assured the residents that the testing regime is an adequate safeguard, but not surprisingly, many are unconvinced. The bill would require an independent and comprehensive assessment of the farm's procedures for storing, handling, applying and testing for pesticides. The bill requires DEEP and the Department of Public Health to report back to this committee if they find inadequate practices or have recommendations for new legislation that results from their assessment. I believe that residents deserve the peace of mind that can

only come by subjecting UConn's pesticide use and testing regime to a third-party scrutiny.

This bill acknowledges that we have a special obligation to ensure the public safety at this unique facility. Since the University of Connecticut is a state agency, the state would be liable if any issues arose that adversely impacted the environment or public health. I've been working with DEEP and DPH to ensure that the assessment can be conducted within their available resources. I believe that they can and that their technical expertise in this area will be critical to ensuring that best practices are employed at the farm and that safeguards are put in place to ensure that private drinking wells are safe from harm.

I wish I could report to you that this bill satisfies all of the residents in the neighborhood, but some feel that the bill does not go nearly far enough. As their neighborhood and as a resident with a well that is also at risk, I agree with him. As their legislator, I feel this bill moves us forward in the right direction and moves the university in the right direction and I'm grateful that many of my neighbors agree with that assessment as well.

I'm here to answer any questions that you might have.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Representative.

You know, historically, Connecticut has not put any pesticides restrictions on agriculture so this is a pioneering bill in many ways as we -- more and more people are contacting the Environment Committee concerning toxic reactions to pesticides and we may have -- we

may have to take a different look than we've historically done in the past.

REP. HADDAD: Many people in my neighborhood are very concerned with the pervasive use of pesticides in general and would agree that there should be additional safeguards put in place for agricultural uses as well. But this bill only addresses I think this specific instance and I think because -- you know, I did that because I think this farm is unique in that it is applying pesticides that are, again, as I mentioned in my testimony, that are not used as the label recommends. The purpose of those research experiments are to expand the label use and so I understand why the university is conducting that research. I understand why the private industry is interested in funding that research, but it's true that they're using those pesticides in a manner that wouldn't be permitted even on an agricultural farm and that they are applying pesticides potentially that are not yet commercially available.

SENATOR MEYER: While you're here, I'm going to ask you if you have an opinion on another bill that we've been hearing this morning and that's a bill that relates to water and UConn and concern that UConn has abused their water rights, and therefore, the bill attempts to regulate UConn with respect to use of its land and water. Do you have an opinion you want to share with us on that?

HB 6537

REP. HADDAD: Sure. That is a very long-standing dispute in our community as well. I mean, I think the bill that you're currently considering was first introduced in 2003 and a very similar bill was introduced in 2001. For me, the frustration, as is expressed by a lot of residents, is about lack of public

assessment and that would be done by DEEP and DPH. Have you had any communication with the departments? And if so, are they in agreement with this? Can you give us any idea about that.

REP. HADDAD: Yes. I've talked to both departments. The DEEP is ready and able to conduct the assessment. I've been working very hard to make sure that the scope of the assessment was within their available resources understanding the constraints that both the Legislature and the department are under. The Department of Public Health sees their role -- will be primarily as advisory to the DEEP on issues of toxicology and chemicals.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS: Thank you.

Representative Haddad, how are you?

REP. HADDAD: Hi, Representative Willis.

REP. WILLIS: I've got quite a few questions for you. I wanted to ask you about first the bill that you're the cosponsor of, the pesticide use. Could you -- you said there was testimony -- there was testing done by property owners looking for elevated levels of certain pesticides, but obviously, you can't test for the full range if you don't know --

HB5480

REP. HADDAD: We don't know what they are.

REP. WILLIS: -- what you're testing for. Did any of the tests show with what they were testing for with elevated levels?

REP. HADDAD: No.

REP. WILLIS: No. And the expense of testing was -- fell upon the individual?

REP. HADDAD: In that case, yes.

REP. WILLIS: I want to also ask as long as you're there and the Chairman opened up the question about a regional water authority which is interesting because I actually spent at least two years in my area trying to establish a regional water authority. It's not easy task. And what it came down at the end is, you know, the communities were trying to get control, obviously, not over the use of the land, but also ensuring price.

HB 6537

REP. HADDAD: Uh-huh.

REP. WILLIS: Because, as you know, water authorities right here in Connecticut have been bought up by international companies so there was a local concern about that. But if there was the establishment of a regional water authority, would you buy this from UConn? Would the -- your authority -- because that's what broke down for us is the cost of purchasing the lands and the sources of water from the entity that exists, you know, the private water company? Would they get paid by the community?

REP. HADDAD: That's a good question. I can't say that our conversations have gone so as to answer that question yet. I mean, at this point, finding willing partners is the stage that we're at. Willing partners who are -- who see value in the creation of a regional water authority. You know, as the EIE is being conducted, partners -- you know, Connecticut Water is interested in providing additional water to the university.

Willimantic Waterworks is studying the issue, as I understand it. They haven't expressed an opinion one way or another. And I think that those are the entities that are most likely to be identified as potential new sources for Mansfield.

So my intention would be to include this conversation concurrently with that conversation about where the new water supply might be coming from, to assess their interest in creating a regional water authority. I would hope that would not be required to pay the university to secure the infrastructure and the wells they already have. They -- they are publicly owned now and transferring them to another publicly-owned regional water authority, it seems to me like it could be done through a conveyance without -- without the expense.

REP. WILLIS: I'm always looking for an income source for UConn. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you.

Representative Albis.

REP. ALBIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Representative Haddad, for your testimony today. I want to get back to the bill that you submitted testimony on. You say in your testimony that UConn's testing program checks their wells for the presence of only 30 percent of the pesticides used. Do you know why that is?

HB 5480

REP. HADDAD: They described it to us as 30 percent of the pesticides that are most heavily used on the farm and we have requested that they test for the presence of all of the pesticides

that they used, but they have denied our request.

REP. ALBIS: And does that 30 percent include those pesticides that per terms of the grant may not be able to be disclosed or is it only pesticides that can be disclosed?

REP. HADDAD: Yeah. At one point, I asked the university if they would at least agree to test not just the 30 percent of the pesticides, but also the proprietary pesticides that they would not disclose to the neighbors, and they refused that request as well.

REP. ALBIS: So this assessment would be for 100 percent of the pesticides used, this independent assessment by DEEP and DPH or --

REP. HADDAD: The assessment would be 100 percent of the pesticides. What DEEP or DPH recommends in terms of a testing regiment moving forward I think is up to them. You know, it is -- you know, we are a neighborhood that is -- I would describe as pretty well-educated. You will hear testimony later today from many of neighbors. They are -- in often cases, they are chemical engineers and pharmacists and professors who work at the university, but our capacity to understand what is going on at the farm is limited and -- so for us, an independent third party assessment conducted by experts in the field is what's really valuable about this bill.

REP. ALBIS: Thank you. And one further question, would the independent assessment be in violation of any of the terms of grants where proprietary information should not be shared or would all the grants still be under the -- fall under the terms of the grant?

REP. HADDAD: I specifically added language into -- in to this draft of the bill that requires them to look at the pesticides that are being used under the experimental use permits and that's an important point. Because to date, to the best of my knowledge, despite the fact that in response to Senator Chapin's question earlier, that the DEEP and DPH have some authority to regulate what's going on at the research farm as they do all over farms, to date, to the best of my knowledge, they have not disclosed what the active ingredients are in those proprietary experiments. I think that this bill clearly includes an assessment of those products in the scope of the work that we're asking DEEP to do and I think it would require that those pesticides to be disclosed and the DPH at least for the purposes of conducting the assessment.

REP. ALBIS: Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR MEYER: Representative Vicino.

REP. VICINO: Good morning, Representative.

REP. HADDAD: Good morning.

REP. VICINO: At the beginning of your testimony, did you say -- did you mention the aspect of smell over the property line of these pesticides?

REP. HADDAD: Smell?

REP. VICINO: Do you smell it over the property lines?

REP. HADDAD: I don't. I'm sorry.

- REP. VICINO: So it's all on site as far as any of the pesticides they're using and it sounds like what you're looking for is the same testing caliber as a private company would have to go through for the state.
- REP. HADDAD: As I understand it, the DEEP does regularly consult with the private industry about their pesticide use and develops both use and regiment -- testing regiments that are appropriate for -- for the kinds of agricultural uses that they -- the kind of pesticide use that they employ. So yeah, I think that this would be consistent with what the DEEP does provide the private industry. So they would just be applying it to the --
- REP. VICINO: So you're looking for the same classifications for a water company --
- REP. HADDAD: Different bill.
- REP. VICINO: -- that UConn would follow and right now it sounds like they're going -- they're going in-house through their own classifications of testing.
- REP. HADDAD: I'm sorry. You have to ask your question again because I don't know if you're asking --
- REP. VICINO: I was just -- what you want to accomplish is you want the same testing as if it was a private company?
- REP. HADDAD: I -- no, I think that this would be well and above what would be applied to a private company, my bill, again. I think you might be confusing the two separate bills that deal with UConn here today. One of them deals with --

REP. VICINO: Water.

REP. HADDAD: -- water companies and one of them deals with pesticide use.

REP. VICINO: Pesticides, but the --

REP. HADDAD: I think that the university as a public research institution should be held to a very high standard in terms of its pesticide use and especially in terms of the experiments that -- when it's applying experimental pesticides in the open less than 100 feet from private well water -- private wells. And I think that that additional level of responsibility is warranted, both because of the experimental nature of what they do and also because as a state agency, we would all -- you know, the state would be liable if something were to go horribly wrong.

I think the likelihood of something going wrong would be low, but if something went wrong, the ramifications would be great.

REP. VICINO: And on those private pieces of property, 100 feet, has anything been found in those wells?

REP. HADDAD: Again, our ability to test our own wells for the presence of the pesticides is limited only to those that we can test for and that we know about. And there is a list in your -- in the public testimony that I submitted where approximately 37 different active ingredients basically are -- are being used at the university under nondisclosure arguments and so it is impossible for us to test our private wells for the presence of those chemicals.

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REP. VICINO: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Greg, you might think about talking to OFA just to be sure that this bill doesn't have a big -- you know, I think everyone is trying to get this done, this test done, and if it is a big fiscal note on it, it could be an impediment.

REP. HADDAD: I appreciate the advice and I'm working hard to make sure that we can do this within available resources and still produce a product that would provide a useful analysis.

SENATOR MEYER: Good. Thanks.

Okay. Our next witness is going to be Louise Fabrykiewicz. I'd love to get the exact pronunciation on that. And she will be followed by Representative Rose and then Theresa Groff and then after her Representative O'Neill.

Good morning -- afternoon.

LOUISE FABRYKIEWICZ: We all have and continue to be aware of the harmful effects that invasive plants --

SB 1016

SENATOR MEYER: Could you just state your name because I messed it up.

LOUISE FABRYKIEWICZ: Oh, I'm sorry.

SENATOR MEYER: That's okay.

LOUISE FABRYKIEWICZ: You got all the way through. Most people stop at the second syllable. You did just fine.

SENATOR MEYER: Would you just state your name for the record.

DANIEL WADE: Thank you.

REP. GENTILE: Scott Ramsay, who will be followed by Zoe Strickler.

SCOTT RAMSAY: Good afternoon. Thank you for your time, and thank you for giving me some time. My name is Scott Ramsey. I am the legislative chair of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I also represent the Connecticut Environment Council, which is a group of green industry groups in the state of Connecticut.

I'm here to testify on 5480, AN ACT REQUIRING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM. I believe that 5480 should be, could be detrimental to the continued research at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

I am testifying in support of the plant science programs at the University of Connecticut. UCONN is a valuable source of information, research, and support to all of the varying elements of the green industry, not only in state but throughout the region. UCONN has a reputation in the turf industry as a leader in developing newer, greener, and more sustainable best management programs and elements of integrated pest management systems.

Our industry is moving towards lowering our environmental footprint and is dependent upon research institutions to provide the direction and data necessary to make the next steps towards these sustainable programs. As an industry, we are supportive of UCONN's knowledge and research with cooperative efforts and fundraising. There are many

groups throughout New England and the entire northeast who support research at UCONN because of its vibrant staff and innovative outlook.

I personally have hired many students and graduates of the UCONN program. The education and experience that they gain at the Research Farm with hands-on, real-world practices is invaluable to their placement and advancement in their careers. UCONN is developing a national exposure for their alumni. So are the students that are dependent on the education they receive at the UCONN Research Farm.

My concern is the unintended consequences of this bill that could affect the amount and depth of research that currently is underway and the research that still needs to be studied. UCONN began as a land grant college and as an agricultural research institution. Today that work is as important as it was then.

I moved to Connecticut 30 years ago as a new graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a degree in plant science. At the time, URI was, in my opinion, the preeminent turf program in the country. I have watched that program hobbled over the years to the point where it is nearly nonexistent.

UCONN has successfully filled this void. Their work not only must be continued, but it is so much, there is so much more that needs to be undertaken to provide the next generation of turf management and managers. Thank you for your time.

REP. GENTILE: Scott, thank you. Any questions?
Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: I don't know if you've been in the room, but we've had people coming from the neighborhood who are very concerned the contamination of the water supply. And the people who've testified already included the state representative for that area. And, but there are residents of Mansfield who are coming today. Some have already testified. There are more still to come, I believe.

SCOTT RAMSAY: Yes, sir.

SENATOR MEYER: And, you know, the Committee has got to take that into consideration here concerning pesticides are, can be toxic, particularly to young people. And if it's getting in the water, public water supply, you know that's not, that would not be a good thing. We can end any question about it if we do this test, and hopefully we'd find that it's, pesticides are not in the water supply at all.

SCOTT RAMSAY: Yes, sir.

SENATOR MEYER: So it won't affect the program at UCONN. But if we find that it is in the water supply, you know, that's going to be tough on residents.

SCOTT RAMSAY: Yes.

SENATOR MEYER: It just seems to me that there's a right to know here. And this test that we're opposing in this bill would bring about that result. We would know whether or not this water has been contaminated. Just wanted to give you sort of the other side of that.

SCOTT RAMSAY: Yes. I've been here throughout the day, sir.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you. Zoe Strickler followed by Marc Weston.

ZOE STRICKLER: Yes, hello and good afternoon, Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and the Committee. My name is Zoe Strickler, and I'm here to testify in favor of Committee Bill Number 5480, AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM.

I and my husband, George Gibson, and our daughter, Chloe, aged 14, are ten-year resident of the Storrs Heights neighborhood. Our home and our well lie approximately 350 feet from the UCONN Experimental Research Farm. Other neighbors across the street, their homes are within 50 feet of the property of the farm.

Like most of the residents of the neighborhood, when we moved in, the farm was used largely as pasture. So we are primarily concerned about the newer turf grass studies that have begun. We strongly support Bill Number 5480.

And as a parent of one of the children living in this community whose bodies and nervous systems are still in development and who are growing up downhill and downwind from this test site, I'm very concerned to know the possible effects on the human body of any pesticides being used at the site.

The turf grass research currently underway at UCONN is, on this farm, is sponsored by a private corporation with commercial interest in the research. Our neighbors have been told by the university that some of, that of some 90 chemicals being applied, in just one study,

that's 90 pesticidal chemicals being used in just one study, 31 cannot be disclosed to us, because they are experimental.

And according to the confidentiality agreements with the sponsor, the commercial sponsor, we cannot know what those chemicals are. We've also learned that no tests exist to test for the presence of these chemicals in the water supply. So our position has been if you cannot test for it, you probably should not be applying it in a residential area as close as our currently property lines.

We cannot find out how often the substances are being applied, in what quantities, nor can we confirm their safety for human exposure. Like many but not all of our neighborhoods living in the vicinity of the UCONN Research Farm, we are university families. We are a university family. Not all of our neighbors are, but we are.

My husband and I have both worked on research at the university, and we understand very well the mission of a publicly-funded institution. It is something of a sacred public trust to be able to conduct research that benefits the public good. All research at a state institution should observe the Hippocratic dictum, first do no harm.

So, however, the turf grass research is privately funded. An oversight for public safety is not built into the grant, as would be the case with federal agency funding. Bill Number 5480 would require needed safety evaluation by appropriate state agencies, the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, and Department, the Department of Energy and Environmental

Protection and the Department of Public Health.

It seems important to mention that the results of this research are intended for end-use on golf courses. Golf courses and other turf grass sites are typically located in or near high density areas of human habitation and often near public water sources.

REP. GENTILE: Ms. Strickler, if you could quickly summarize.

ZOE STRICKLER: Yes. So the point is the individuals affected by this research may not just be our neighborhood but anyone living near a golf course with the end-use. And so we would hope that the, we believe that the time to study the safety of these chemicals is at the time that the efficacy is being tested.

And the university claims they're only testing the efficacy, not the safety, of the chemicals. And we feel that it shouldn't go unassessed by a state agency. Thank you very much.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you for your time. Any questions? Representative Miller.

REP. MILLER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Has there been any adverse effects health-wise in your neighborhood over the last few years?

ZOE STRICKLER: Not that we're aware of. As we know, the chemicals have just begun to be applied for this particular grant. So it's too soon to tell. But our concern would be that we don't know what those chemicals are, and we believe the Department of Public Health could tell us if a list were provided to them.

We would, at the moment, we can't evaluate that, but we do believe that the state agencies would be able to evaluate the health risk if they were informed.

REP. MILLER: How big of an area are they testing these pesticides on?

ZOE STRICKLER: The plots themselves are fairly small, as we understand it. I think Representative Haddad addressed that this morning. It --

REP. MILLER: You know, like a 25 by 50 area or --

ZOE STRICKLER: The plots are relatively small.

REP. MILLER: Small, smaller than that?

ZOE STRICKLER: But the point is we're not concerned just about the effects on our neighborhood, because on a golf course, with regular applications of chemicals, if they're not safe, that would accumulate for anyone living near the golf course. And we're concerned that we are not being used as guinea pigs. We'd rather not find ourselves in that position 10, 15 years from now.

REP. MILLER: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you. Marc Weston followed by David Peterson, then Robert Coughlin.

MARC WESTON: Good afternoon. Thank you for having me. I am here today on Bill Number 5480, and my name is Marc Weston. I'm the golf course superintendent at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington, Connecticut. And I'm also a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in horticulture, class of 1996.

I first came in contact with the UCONN Research Farm in 1993. Many of my classes were held down there. Many of my labs were held down there. Twenty years ago, I was fortunate enough to work with exceptional UCONN professors that taught us the value of sustainability, always doing less with more.

And these were hands-on research experiments done with these professors. They also taught us the value of always staying current with ongoing research. So I am a product of the UCONN research farm and UCONN, and I am in this industry 20 years later. The research that is being done now is used day to day with my job.

These professors are always available for current issues that are going on in the state. The value of having research being done in our home state that is used instead of somewhere else in the country that have close to the same environmental situations going on is of great help to me and the decisions I make.

These professors are also willing to give research talks to other state organizations, are, and are very involved in doing less with more. So I am just here to testify that I've been involved with it in 20 years, and it has a very positive effect on my outlook and how I view my job and my industry and am grateful for the research that they're doing.

I am opposed to this, because I am worried that some, in the process, it might hinder the research they're doing in case things go wrong with the bill.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Marc. David Peterson followed by Robert Coughlin followed by John Rickards.

DAVID PETERSON: Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Members of the Committee, I'm David Peterson from West Hartford. I own my own landscaping and lawn care business. I am a member of several trade organizations, the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association, the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, the Connecticut Environmental Council.

I also serve on the board of the Elizabeth Park Conservancy and also on the Dean's Advisory Board at the College of Ag at UCONN. Three years ago, I was chosen by Dean Weidemann to be Connecticut's delegate to the Council for Agriculture, Research, Education, and Teaching, which the deans and their representatives from all of the land grant universities across the country convene to discuss environmental and agricultural issues.

I am here opposing Bill Number 5480. I have personal experience at the UCONN test farm, and I can assure you that if the rules and regulations for governing the use of pesticides, if there's any place on God's green earth that the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed, it is at UCONN.

We have a very clean operation and a very safe operation. These manufacturers spend tens of millions of dollars almost ten years to get these things. These proprietary products are very valuable, and I would ask you to read the rest of my testimony, but I'd rather have an interaction.

And I think that if we could use an example from everybody that talked today, Representative Miller, there are things that are found in nature, and it's phenomenal. There are weed killers that were found under

the bottle brush. There's extract from chrysanthemums, and they've been of great use. And it's possible that we can find more, and we should.

A lot of times the synthetic clone of these is actually safer than what's found in nature itself, as I'm sure you're aware. And, Senator Meyer, I know that you've got some bamboo. And I think we should dig some up and bring it next to Representative Haddad's, hundred feet from his property and then have UCONN get one of these proprietary chemicals and try to figure out how to solve his problem.

And I'm glad to hear that there's ongoing research at one of the ag stations to solve the bamboo issue. And I'm not here to really talk about bamboo. But this is the kind of problem that we have to allow research facilities latitudes in terms of timing, in terms of rates, in terms of toxicity.

If we're going to have problems with Lyme disease, West Nile virus, bamboo, you name it, the research and the answers to these questions for public health and for environmental safety and for life we know it in Connecticut is going to come from these things.

Agriculture is a \$3.2 billion industry in Connecticut, 25,000 jobs, 1100 small businesses, and we also have to consider the economic impacts and the costs of extensive and unnecessary assessments.

SENATOR MEYER: You know, if we were to take your message to us literally, what you're saying to us is the research we do is so important that it doesn't make any difference if it poisons

people. Could you, do you hear that in what you're saying?

DAVID PETERSON: I don't agree with that. I think that there are wells that are actually on the farm itself where they test, they know a product's solubility, they know it's ability to move, they know the soils and how far it could legitimately move laterally to somebody else's well.

And I'm not a soil scientist, but I understand from talking with the people up there that it would be highly unlikely for that to escape off site. Sure, there's a risk. I mean, there's a risk in almost anything. But there has to be a cost benefit analysis, and I think under the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the EPA, I think that there are several hurdles that these products have to go through, hoops that they have to go through.

I've seen the pesticide storage at UCONN and at University of Rhode Island. These guys are the best scientists of today. They're teaching the best scientists of tomorrow. And this is going on all over the country.

SENATOR MEYER: I'm just surprised at your, that you would put safety aside when a test could give you assurance with respect to safety.

DAVID PETERSON: I, I --

SENATOR MEYER: You sound almost like you're scared that the tests could bring out something, evidence of contamination and hurt the research program.

DAVID PETERSON: I believe that before the product would get to the Research Farm it would go

through the testing, the stringent testing that Dean Weidemann talked about that's done by the EPA. And the EPA, before it releases a product for field use or whatever, and I'll quote, it would not cause unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment.

That's a quote from the EPA restrictions before they let this genie out of the bottle they go through, and it's, I think there's over a hundred tests for human health that are involved with this. And is it possible? Well, anything is possible. I mean, we didn't know about mesothelioma when we were trying to win the greatest war ever fought.

Unfortunately, there were side effects, but these are very safe, and the agricultural community needs these as tools. If two percent of our population is being asked to feed the rest of us, we need to have these tools in the hands of the farmers. And there's also 2100 golf courses that partner with the Audubon Society to work on buffer zones.

And at my golf course, there's more wildlife than there ever was. There's all kinds of wildlife, some detrimental. But you've got highly maintained turf and highly maintained soils, and it doesn't seem to deter wildlife in terms of birds. And if it did, I don't think the Audubon Society would recognize it.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, David. Any other questions? Thank you. Robert Coughlin followed by John Rickards.

ROBERT COUGHLIN: Good afternoon, Honorable Legislators and Members of the Environmental Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you this afternoon. My name is

HB 5480

Robert Coughlin. I've lived at 49 Storrs Heights Road in Storrs, Connecticut, since 1977.

Until I retired several years ago, I was a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at UCONN, and I've had a very satisfactory career there teaching and doing research and also serving as a department head. I'm a great fan of research. I'm a great fan of pesticides.

I've done, I believe they do harm, but they've done more helpful things in the world and improved our food supply in great benefit, but, still, we have to worry about their ill effects. So I'm very happy to come to you and talk to you today about this subject. We're not, I'm not here to oppose pesticides or to oppose research. I applaud research, and I applaud pesticides.

What I'm here for is to talk about openness and transparency. And the bill that we're talking about here, the Committee Bill 5480, aimed at oversight of the UCONN research farm, would do just that. This farm is located within a residential neighborhood in close proximity to many homes, one of which is mine.

I've appended to my testimony a map, an aerial view of, that shows the test farm, and it shows many homes right adjacent to the test farm, although (inaudible) obscures many other homes. At least, my understanding is that at least 90 chemicals, toxic chemicals are warehoused at the farm and regularly released to the environment by application to land and crops in experimental research programs.

And such research is supported by grants and contracts, and the research advances, the

careers and interests of students, faculty, staff, and administrators associated with the farm, they have a vested interest in this research.

However, there appears to be no oversight and review of the farm operation by outside, independent, disinterested organizations qualified to monitor and assess the risk and safety aspects regarding the release of the toxic chemicals into the environment so close to residential houses. This bill is directed at that kind of oversight.

I'd like to emphasize that this research farm that we've been talking about is not simply a farm in the usual sense of the word. I would better describe it as a multi-acre outdoor laboratory where a large number of experimental toxic chemicals are released to the environment by application of pesticides to crops.

Many of these experimental chemicals are not registered for that kind of agricultural use without accepted protocols for their application. My neighbors and I have looked but not found any similar research farm operations so close to where people live and obtain their drinking water from wells as we do.

We are concerned about the possibility that toxic and potentially carcinogenic chemicals regularly released to the environment by the UCONN farm could be entering drinking water obtained from our essential wells. Many of us have started to use filtered and bottled water in response to those fears. A related fear is that an explosion or a fire, a chemical storage warehouse (inaudible) --

REP. GENTILE: Mr. Coughlin, could you please summarize?

ROBERT COUGHLIN: I will -- that a fire or explosion at the farm could produce a plume of such chemicals over a wide area far beyond the surrounding homes. Now to conclude, I'd like to applaud UCONN's support of this bill. UCONN has also tried to allay neighborhood fears by conducting sampling and testing programs.

However, in the view of many residents, such programs are inadequate in that they rely on a limited number of samples taken long after the chemicals are released to the environment and the samples are analyzed only for a few of the chemicals that could be applied. We don't know what's being applied.

So subject bill would bring about the oversight and transparency that I feel and my neighbors feel is sorely needed. Thank you very much for your attention.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Mr. Coughlin.
Representative O'Dea.

REP. O'DEA: I just looked at his testimony, Madam Chair, and I don't see the map that he referenced on the back of (inaudible).

ROBERT COUGHLIN: I was unable to attach the map to the electronic copy, but the map is attached to the five hard copies that I brought with me today.

REP. O'DEA: Thank you very much.

REP. GENTILE: They'll be in the Committee room. John Rickards followed by James Hanley followed by Lance Minkler.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 7
2010 - 2351**

2013

JOHN RICKARDS: Good afternoon, Senator Meyer and Representative Gentile and other Members of the Environmental Committee. We appreciate this opportunity to speak to the issue of Committee Bill Number 5480.

I like the bill, just let me say this at the beginning since I didn't say I support it or I'm against it, but I like the bill, but I think it should be tightened up in terms of the language. And I'll indicate that in what I have to say, and we'll find a clear way.

Our health and our, the health of our children and our grandchildren, in our case at least, who visit us about four days and four nights of the month, vitally depend upon the protection of our precious resource of water. With the recent infusion of \$3 million of grant money for turf research, UCONN's research farm has been conducting experimental research on some 90 pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides since 2006.

It's a fairly recent thing that's been going on. For the past several years, about five years, a group of neighbors representing the Storrs Heights Neighborhood Association have unsuccessfully requested many times for full disclosure of the chemicals being tested as well as regular testing of the wells on the farm within 50 feet of our property lines for the purpose of any of those toxic chemicals.

The response regarding full disclosure from UCONN is that they can't reveal the specific names of many, about 37 of the 90 of the chemicals being applied, because they fall under the rubric of proprietary research, which means they are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Moreover, we were told that UCONN is unwilling to conduct tests, as Representative Haddad pointed on, on the wide array of chemicals being used. And actually, in one instance, we were told by the dean that it would be unbelievably expensive. He used a figure of something like \$200,000.

I since have talked to a couple chemistry professors, both here and at another university, and they thought the price would be more like two to \$3,000. So I don't know. I'm a former psychology professor. This isn't my field. Such positioning leaves us in an impossible situation.

We are at risk, and we won't even know when one or more of the toxic chemicals are invading our well water until one or more of us get sick. Then, of course, it is too late. I should also add that the placement of the University Experimental Research Farm in our neighborhood appears to be an anomaly.

As far as I can tell from examining the Web, we have the misfortune of being unique in this regard. For example, turf research at UMASS at Amherst, excuse me, is done in a rural setting of Deerfield, Mass. And there are many other such examples, such as Penn State and Purdue and so on, places where I've been to school or taught.

Moreover, when UCONN was asked, does UCONN know if other state or private universities conduct similar research, the response was, quote, no direct knowledge of whether other researchers conduct this similar research, but we consider it unlikely.

It is rather disquieting to realize that of the millions of dollars of research money being invested in turf research at universities in the U.S. and elsewhere, it appears that no one else may be doing the kind of research being done here. One wonders whether or not it might be related to the fact that UCONN is willing to focus on proprietary research on some 37 toxic chemicals.

It is also disquieting to hear Dean Weidemann say, February 7th, 2013, in Hartford Advocate, regarding the lawn pesticide controversy, and I quote, we don't address the toxicology side of that. We try to stay out of the debate about relative safety and risk. Such relative safety and risk is at the heart of our concern in our Storrs Heights neighborhood that abuts the Experimental Farm.

And just to briefly indicate, I am very much in support of a bill, and I like the actual proposed bill better than I like the Committee bill, because I think it forces UCONN in an explicit way to indicate what these proprietary research projects are and what the chemicals are.

We're living in a neighborhood -- this is a unique setting, I don't, can't find one anywhere else -- where this kind of research is being done adjacent to a neighborhood within 50 feet of the property lines of several neighboring wells. And I don't think it's fair that we don't know what's going on.

We have no way of finding out what's going on. And I think full disclosure is in order. We had a little rule we came up with in our Storrs Heights Association meeting. If you can't test it, then you shouldn't use it on a

farm that's in and among houses in a neighborhood. Thank you.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you. James Hanley followed by Lance Minkler. Okay. We'll move on. Doriene Smith.

DORIEENNE SMITH: I'm here in support of Bill 6537, AN ACT CONCERNING WATER QUALITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. But I support the bill with conditions, and those are listed in both my comment to the Committee and also a letter that I've written to Representative Haddad. And I apologize, but it's just been written and sent to him, so he may not actually have seen it yet.

I'm here on behalf of my husband, Joseph G. Smith, and his petition, which is online at gopetition, as half the UCONN water bill. I'm also here for the 195 signees of that petition.

I'm here also in sympathy with residents of the Farmington Valley who have spoken out against UCONN's efforts to use the MDC metropolitan water district to provide a water pipeline out of East Hartford that would really bring water from more than 52 miles from Barkhamsted and UCONN reservoirs into Storrs.

I grew up out that way and worked in Litchfield for WZBG Northwest News, a 60, an affiliate of CBS. So up until recently, I was also radio broadcasting out of UCONN at times, as they are part of the Pacifica community. And I had a nationally syndicated radio show, which I've taken time out from since I had an injury last year.

now what we're seeing seems to have gotten legs of its own, and it's moving on its own without a heck of a lot of input from residents any longer.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you.

DORIENCE SMITH: Thank you. Margaret Miner followed by Arthur Smith.

MARGARET MINER: Thank you Chairman Gentile and Chairman Meyer and Members of the Committee. I submitted testimony on a number of bills. The, very close to my heart is the pesticide issue, as you know, and I do, I believe that the, oh, did I say I'm with Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, executive director. We protect water resources.

HB 6537
HB 5480

Statewide, we have a problem with having no publicly accessible database or even an agency availability to know what we've put down in the way of pesticides where. And as you saw last year with the reports of a well contamination in Stamford and Fairfield County, investigating that is very difficult when we have no, we don't have accessible records as to what was applied.

So I favor a study and more transparency at the farm. So I live in Roxbury and for years have been aware of and have friends working on the Southbury Training School, so I'm really looking forward to that finally being resolved. On the bill to make UCONN a water company, it could almost have said support with reservations are opposed with reservations. So I came down with support.

HB 6542

This actually closely resembles a bill we worked on in 2001. The, many Legislators, including Don Williams and the Attorney

HB 6537

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Next is Lauren Savidge followed by Eric Brown.

LAUREN SAVIDGE: Thank you, Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Members of the Committee. My name is Lauren Savidge, and I am a legal fellow with Connecticut Fund for the Environment. We submitted written testimony on a number of bills, so I'd like to discuss two of them before you this afternoon.

HB 5480
SB 1019

First, we support Proposed Bill 6536, AN ACT CONCERNING GENERAL PERMITS AT DEEP, which would allow the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to collect an annual fee for general permits. General permit programs are, at DEEP, an effective means to monitor projects with environmental impact throughout the state and grant permits in a timely fashion so that regulated projects are not unduly delayed.

For the general permit regulatory programs to be effective and carry out their respective environmental goals, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection must have the resources to monitor compliance with the program. But DEEP is an agency of limited resources, and this annual fee on general permit holders would provide the support needed to ensure compliance.

We also submit this testimony in support of Proposed Bill 6537, AN ACT CONCERNING WATER QUALITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, which would require UCONN to comply with certain water supply planning procedures that are required of other water companies. Clean and safe public drinking water has been a state priority for years, and drinking water quality is directly affected by the maintenance of source water watershed land.

This legislation would regulate UCONN as a water company and provide the same strong protections of watershed land. UCONN should be regulated as all other water companies, because its development projects directly impact drinking water watershed lands, and UCONN does supply water. Water supply planning must be improved throughout the state in general, and I think this bill highlights that.

In 2010, DPH stated the need for a statewide water supply plan. This type of statewide coordination is necessary to outline goals and policies to guide future development and water company projects that minimize the negative impacts on our drinking water quality. However, no such plan has been developed yet.

Until a statewide water plan is created, the state drinking water supply is at risk of overuse in some areas and abundance in others because of poor planning across the regions in the state. Water management planning would facilitate cooperation and ensure that water supply expansions consider future impact on regional and overall state drinking water quality.

This legislation is a step in the right direction in water planning to require UCONN to comply with certain water plans already required of other water companies. We also submitted testimony on Bill 5480 supporting it and also opposing Section 14 of Bill 1019. And we are happy to answer any questions, and thank you for your time.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Lauren. You're very comprehensive here. That's a tricky bill, the UCONN bill.

HB 6537



**Testimony
Elizabeth Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Environment Committee
March 15, 2013**

**HB-5480 - AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN
PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM.**

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of private, municipal and regional public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut.

As stewards of the state's water resources, CWWA members are very supportive of efforts to protect the quality and safety of Connecticut's public water supplies. We support the intent of HB-5480 to ensure that certain pesticides are not affecting the water quality.

In addition, we would also like to bring to your attention another issue which affects Connecticut's water quality. Certain types of contractors, such as construction and paving contractors, landscapers, pool companies and hydroseeders, are attaching hoses directly to fire hydrants or throwing hoses into reservoirs to draw water for commercial purposes. This can easily contaminate drinking water supplies because they are not using back flow prevention devices to protect against contamination from chemicals, fertilizers or pesticides used in the course of their business.

As recognized by the Department of Public Health, such unauthorized connections or withdrawals have the potential to contaminate public water supplies relied upon by thousands of Connecticut citizens. In addition, such illegal use may further jeopardize public health and safety by damaging pipes, hydrants and other equipment required for safe public drinking water and firefighting purposes.

Under current law, theft of utility service is a misdemeanor. However, law enforcement is hesitant to issue citations because of general lack of awareness of the potential public safety consequences of such unauthorized connections and the criminal nature of misdemeanor enforcement, which involves the need for criminal prosecution for each offense. Legislation creating a more effective deterrent to this behavior would better protect Connecticut's drinking water supplies.

CWWA therefore requests your consideration of language to address this issue.

We will not be able to attend the hearing today, due to work commitments. But we would like to submit the following statement for consideration by the hearing committee:

Re: H.B. No. 5480 (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM.

As long-time Mansfield residents and members of the Storrs Heights Road community which abuts the UConn Agricultural farm, we strongly support this bill so that we can know which pesticides are being used in experimental work on the UConn farm. As a neighborhood community we have tried unsuccessfully to obtain this information from UConn, but our requests have been passed from office to office, and ultimately ignored. This is in violation of the conditions of UConn's Federal funding for some of this work, which requires that all chemicals used in the research must be made public. It is clear that this is a case where some state oversight is necessary in order to provide transparency and answers to the legitimate concerns of local Mansfield residents. It is worth noting that the UConn Ag farm operated for many years without the need for excessive irrigation or the use of experimental pesticides, until about 6 years ago when UConn made an ill-advised unilateral decision to go heavily into the study of turf grass, a decision that has dramatically transformed the operation of the farm and had a serious effect on the local community in terms of water quality and quantity. Again, some oversight and regulation is needed to monitor this unwarranted expansion and its hazardous environmental consequences.

Gerald V. Dunne, Mansfield resident and UConn Professor of Physics,
Elyse S. Poller, Mansfield resident,
27 Storrs Heights Road, Storrs CT 06268

**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**

775 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor, CT 06095-2322

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March 15, 2013

Testimony in Opposition to: HB Bill No. 5480 AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM.

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Farm Bureau is concerned with HB 5480 and the potential impact it might have to stifle the important agricultural research being conducted at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

In its role as Connecticut's Land-Grant institution the research programs of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are vitally important to the agricultural community. Our need for timely and targeted agricultural research relating to agricultural production, processing and marketing, as well as environmental quality, will only increase in the future. Therefore, the maintenance and development of a strong and effective applied research program at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources with the capacity to meet the growing needs of modern Connecticut agriculture is essential as agriculture continues to be an important part of Connecticut's economy and landscape.

Our concern with HB 5480 is that it could make it more difficult for the University of Connecticut Research Farm to conduct needed research because of additional reporting and bureaucratic process. The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources already has in place protocols and safeguards administered by some of the country's best scientists. In addition the University works closely with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to make sure they are in compliance with existing regulations. Therefore we believe HB 5480 is unnecessary.

***H.B. No. 5480 (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM.**

Committee Members:

I wish to testify in SUPPORT of the act listed above. Without such a bill, there is simply no way that neighbors can know what potentially harmful synthetic chemicals are being applied to the near-surface soils directly adjacent to their properties within the watershed of Hanks Hill Brook, which drains to the Fenton River. For several years, members of an ad hoc committee have tried to get such information, with limited success at best. They deserve to know. The bill would satisfy their legitimate concerns.

Robert M. Thorson

Mansfield resident: 9 Storrs Heights Road, Storrs CT 06268. ALSO Professor of Geology, University of CT. ALSO, environmental columnist, *Hartford Courant*

Testimony In Support of**HB 5480, An Act Requiring An Assessment Of The Use Of Certain Pesticides At The University Of Connecticut Research Farm****March 15, 2013****George N. Gibson, 24 Storrs Heights Road, Storrs, CT**

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the Environment Committee, I am sure you are now aware of the University of Connecticut Research Farm which borders the Storrs Height community, of which I am a resident. Due to the diligent work of various community residents, I have become aware of the disturbing fact that the Research Farm releases over 90 different experimental and proprietary pesticides directly into the environment, which can migrate through the air or ground water to our and other communities. While this itself is a matter of great concern, it has also become clear that there is no independent public agency with the responsibility or authority to oversee this pesticide use.

I conduct research in the Physics Department at the University of Connecticut. I am subject to unannounced inspections by the UConn Division of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and I must have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all chemicals in my lab in a public and readily accessible binder. As an active experimental researcher, I am dismayed that another unit on campus, which handles potential neurotoxins is not subject to the same, or indeed, any oversight. I have also been told that this research unit hides behind the screen of confidentiality agreements. Such an argument is unethical at best.

The lack of oversight is putting the researchers themselves in danger, as well as the students and staff working with them and the residents of nearby communities. This is also placing the University of Connecticut in a vulnerable position, should any lawsuits be filed, not to mention the State of Connecticut and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. I urge you to at least implement this minimal level of oversight. In fact, I would recommend further legislation to give the DEEP authority to regulate the use of these substances.

James Hanley
35 Storrs Heights
Storrs CT 06268

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee:

I am testifying with regard to Committee Bill No. 5480: An Act Requiring An Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

I live in the Storrs Heights community, adjacent to the University of Connecticut experimental research farm.

For the past several years residents have been meeting with University officials to ask them to reveal to us exactly what chemical compounds have been applied to the soil at this farm. As a user of water from a domestic well, knowing what is going into the ground right next to my home is a crucial concern.

I have become particularly concerned since the University began research into proprietary substances to be used in turf grass. Data has been provided to us about only some of the chemical applications in use: the proprietary ones have been kept secret in deference to the company or companies paying for the research. I believe the University has no business applying possibly dangerous substances to the soil in the middle of a residential area dependent on domestic water wells. And we cannot get essential information about this because the University has a private contract with a commercial corporation.

Committee Bill 5480 is a beginning, in that it brings this issue to public attention, however the text of this bill needs revision to include concrete requirements that the University disclose at once all chemical compounds in use at their experimental farm, without exception for any reason.

If the farm is to continue to operate in a close residential neighborhood, it must be required to place the safety and health of citizens before any other factors. If our water becomes contaminated by a toxic, possibly unknown experimental compound, it will be too late. Ground water cannot be restored.



Post Office Box 415 • Botsford, Connecticut 06404 • 800-562-0160 • ConnGreen@aol.com

Statement of
 Bob Heffernan
 Executive Director
 Connecticut Green Industries Council
 before the Environment Committee

Opposing H.B. 5480 / Pesticide Research at UConn's Plant Science Fields

March 15, 2013

This bill would damage the very research needed in the state to *reduce* pesticide use. UConn's College of Agriculture has done sterling work to instruct our growers – one half of all of agriculture in the state – on how to use *less* pesticides. Their research on these very fields has improved our techniques for growing plants and for landscaping.

The bill may also set a bad precedent hindering similar research by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at its research fields around the state.

UConn already carefully limits its pesticide applications at its research farm in Storrs to the point that they are not detectable by the most sensitive instruments. The plots using pesticides are located far away from neighbors and are constrained to very small areas.

This research is necessary also for EPA consideration of pesticide applications and testing of safety.

We ask that the Environment Committee NOT approve this bill. This bill is more about angry neighbors than about the proper role of science, research, and public policy enhancing the state as a whole.

**Testimony of
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
By
Nancy Alderman, President**

Bill 5480

Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Linda Gentile, and Members of the Environment Committee:

Environment and Human Health, Inc is in strong support of Bill 5480 -- An Act Requiring an Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

May we first define pesticides, which are used on grounds? Those pesticides include insecticides, herbicides and fungicides.

We know that pesticides that are placed on grounds often migrate down into nearby well water. According to the United States Geological Survey, Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI) conducted the largest private well-water study in the nation.

This study can be found at <http://www.ehhi.org/reports/wells/summary.shtml>

In that study, EHHI looked at 53 wells in Woodbridge, Connecticut for their lawn-care pesticide contents. Some wells that had pesticides in them were deep wells and other contaminated wells belonged to organic lawn-care households. The study showed that lawn-care pesticides used anywhere in a town could end up in people's wells – even in an organic lawn-care owner's well.

We found that 11 percent of the wells had pesticides in them and many of the wells were contaminated with more than one pesticide. Pesticides are tested for their health effects one compound at a time. There is no research on the interaction or synergy of these chemicals found together, or on their compounded effects on human health.

By the University placing pesticides, of which some are experimental, on their property near homes on well-water, the University of Connecticut is not only experimenting with pesticides – they are also experimenting with the health of the nearby neighbors – many of which teach at that very University.

The University should stop placing dangerous pesticides on grounds near where people live, and especially when the nearby homes are on well water.

At the very least the University should take responsibility for testing the ground water for the very pesticides that it is placing on the property. This cannot be done just once – or just once a year - it must be repeated at least bi-yearly and one of those times should be soon after pesticides are placed on the ground.

If the University is going to poison the ground that it owns – it should take responsibility to make sure it does not poison its neighbors.

Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.
March 2013

Written Testimony of John Rickards
Regarding Committee Bill No. 5480 AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF
THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
RESEARCH FARM
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee
March 15, 2013

Good Morning Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding Committee Bill No. 5480 An Act Requiring An Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm

I have lived at 51 Storrs Heights Rd. in Storrs for 13 years and I retired from UConn three years ago after 29 years as a Professor of Psychology. I look back on my years at UConn with pride and joy. It was truly a privilege to be professor in such a fine Department at the University. And, I should point out that both of my daughters and one of my sons-in-law each have multiple degrees from UConn. In short, we are a UConn family and we truly appreciate all the wonderful things that UConn does. This does not mean, however, that we are blinded by our enthusiasm and therefore cannot see when UConn does not do the right thing, as is the case in the conduct of the Research Farm.

I agree with my neighbors remarks before this Committee that our health and the health of our children vitally depend on the protection of our precious resource of water. With the recent infusion of \$3 million of grant money for turf research, UConn's Research Farm has been conducting experimental research on some 90 pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. For the past several years, a group of neighbors representing the Storrs Heights Neighborhood Association have unsuccessfully requested many times for full disclosure of the chemicals being tested as well for regular testing of the wells on the farm within 50 feet or so of our property for the presence of any of these toxic chemicals.

The response regarding full disclosure is that UConn cannot reveal the specific names of many (about 37) of the chemicals being applied because they fall under the rubric of "proprietary research" which means they are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Moreover, we were told to conduct testing on the full panoply of non-proprietary chemicals would cost around \$200,000. This conflicts with what I was told by a Chemistry professor here at UConn who estimated the cost to be more like \$2-3000. Such positioning leaves us in an impossible situation. We are at risk and we won't even know when one or more of the toxic chemicals are invading our well water until one or more of us gets sick. Then, of course, it is too late!

I should also add that the placement of a university experimental research farm in a neighborhood appears to be an anomaly. As far as I can tell for my examination on the web, we have the misfortune of being unique in this regard. For example, turf research at UMass at Amherst is done in a rural setting in Deerfield, MA. There are many other such examples. Moreover, when UConn was asked "Does UConn know if other state or private universities conduct similar research?" UConn responded by answering that it has "no direct knowledge of whether other universities conduct similar research, but considers it unlikely (OLR Research Report on the UConn Research Farm, December, 2012. I believe it is attached to Rep. Haddad's testimony). It is rather disquieting to realize that of the millions of dollars of research money being invested in turf research at universities in the USA and elsewhere, it appears that no one else is doing the kind of

experimental research that is being conducted here at UConn. One wonders whether or not it might be related to the fact that UConn is willing to focus on proprietary research projects of some 37 toxic chemicals on its Research Farm. It is also disquieting to hear Dean Weidemann say (February 7, 2013, Hartford Advocate) regarding the lawn pesticide controversy that "We don't address the toxicology side of that. We try to stay out of the debate about relative safety and risk." Such "relative safety and risk" is at the heart of our concern in our Storrs Heights neighborhood that abuts the Experimental Research Farm.

From the above, I hope I have lent some clarity to our need for disclosure and testing of wells for the wide variety of chemicals used. Unfortunately, however, in my opinion the current form of the Bill (Committee Bill No. 5480) appears to be less likely to involve disclosure and more complete water testing than the originally proposed Bill (Proposed Bill No. 5480). Just reading the title of each reveals the main difference between them (please read below). The Proposed Bill states that UConn would be required to do ground water testing and to disclose their use of pesticides, etc. Committee Bill No. 5480 states something substantially less than the Proposed Bill. Specifically, the Committee Bill only "requires an assessment [by DEEP] of the use of certain pesticides" at the farm, probably not the all important "proprietary pesticides." And, most importantly, unlike the Proposed Bill, there is no indication in the Committee Bill that UConn is required to disclose any of the pesticides it uses. Further, the "assessment" proposed in the Committee Bill is focused on 1) "procedures for storage and application;" 2) "protocols used to ensure the safe application of pesticides," including EPA permits as well as DEEP oversight of the applications which UConn claims it already has in place; and 3) "an evaluation of the water testing regimen... [including] the types of pesticides identified by such testing." But, no mention is made in this bill of requiring UConn to include in their testing regimen a more extensive list of pesticides than they currently do include (about 10 of 90 chemicals applied to the soil). While I fully support the overall language and substance of Proposed Bill No. 5480 and the apparent intent of the Committee Bill as expressed in Representative Haddad's testimony to your Committee, I cannot currently support the Committee Bill No. 5480 as it is now written.

General Assembly

Proposed Bill No. 5480

January Session, 2013

LCO No 1300

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by

REP HADDAD, 54th Dist

AN ACT REQUIRING GROUNDWATER TESTING AND THE DISCLOSURE OF PESTICIDE USE AT STATE-OWNED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FIELDS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened

That the general statutes be amended to require groundwater and residential drinking water testing and the disclosure of pesticide, fungicide and herbicide use at state-owned agricultural research fields

Statement of Purpose:

To assure that the use of pesticides, fungicides and herbicides at state-owned agricultural research fields does not negatively impact water quality in the surrounding area

Written Testimony of Lanse Minkler of The Hill Improvement Association in Favor of H.B. 5480, An Act Requiring An Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm

Dear Environmental Committee Members,

I am President of the Storrs Heights neighborhood association, The Hill Improvement Association, and an Associate Professor of Economics at UCONN. As Vice President of the association in 2009 I made the motion to form an ad hoc committee, the Farm Water Committee, to investigate potential environmental issues associated with UCONN's experimental farm, which is located just next to our neighborhood, other residents, and the Fenton River watershed (which supplies water to Willimantic and southern Mansfield residents). The neighborhood's enthusiastic endorsement of, and continued support for the committee reflects both the deep concerns about the safety of our well water and UCONN's inability to allay those concerns --despite our many meetings with UCONN administrators. We are continually surprised by the lack of oversight of the farm's activities; it leaves us feeling quite vulnerable to chemical exposure through our well water. The experimental farm is different from normal farms because it uses pesticides and fungicides not normally used on agricultural farms, and in ways that have not gone through normal approval processes. Moreover, we have had a difficult time obtaining a full list of chemicals used at the experimental farm, partly because some chemicals used are proprietary. Even though our neighborhood has faculty from pharmacy, geology, physics, and chemical engineering who have looked at the available information, *we simply do not have the skill or expertise necessary to assess the safety and safety practices of the roughly 90 chemicals used at the experimental farm.*

I urge you to support H.B. 5480 for the following reasons.

Our water, other residents' water, and the Fenton River Watershed are at risk. While UCONN administrators continually assure us that they follow regulatory guidelines, a perhaps low threshold that we cannot confirm, they also assert that they are not in the business of risk assessment. *But all of the area residents would have to bear the full health costs of a chemical poisoning.* Consultants have told us that we are at risk because UCONN only tests for a small number of the chemicals used, in inadequate ways, and because chemicals move in underground water systems in unpredictable ways. Even with the best conceivable testing we could never know the effects of interactions between 90 chemicals. Based on our consultant's recommendations in August of 2012, I sent a letter to the neighborhood urging them to consider charcoal filtering systems for their drinking water. I also contacted the Allstate Insurance Company about a policy to insure the Storrs Heights neighborhood against a chemical poisoning from the experimental farm. After a lengthy investigation, Allstate responded that they could not offer *any* such policy.

Without legislation, UCONN's administrators may not act. We have had many meetings with UCONN's administrators in different forums. Many of us are UCONN employees; many of us support the experimental farm so long as its activities are demonstrably safe; and all of us support UCONN's success. But UCONN administrators have established through pattern and practice that they will only employ just enough chemical safety procedures to stave off unwanted attention. Fortunately, because of this proposed legislation, they have agreed to a third party assessment of their chemical safety procedures at the experimental farm. This legislation will help to protect both our water supply and also UCONN's reputation. This legislation also assures that it doesn't matter who the future residents or UCONN administrators are because our safety will not depend upon the skill or willingness of those parties. Instead, it will depend upon the skill of the DEEP and DPH experts, which is where it belongs.

Sincerely,
Lanse Minkler

**Testimony of Donna Becotte for the Environment Committee
In Support of HB 5480, An Act Requiring An Assessment Of The Use Of Certain
Pesticides At The University Of Connecticut Research Farm
March 15, 2013**

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Donna Becotte, and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5480, An Act Requiring An Assessment Of The Use Of Certain Pesticides At The University Of Connecticut Research Farm.

I live at 28 Storrs Heights Road in the Storrs section of the town of Mansfield. My husband, Gregg Haddad, and I chose to build our house there nearly 9 years ago because of the friendly neighborhood, the closeness to the University, and the peace and quiet of Storrs Heights.

We have a voluntary neighborhood association to deal with issues of concern for the betterment of our community. A few years ago, I began hearing my neighbors talking about the UConn Farm behind the houses across the street. And after I started paying attention, I found out that the Farm was an experimental farm and that new research contracts were being signed for turf grass and other experimental projects there. Because I can see the farm field through my front windows, I decided to get involved with a sub-committee of our association to investigate any health issues that might stem from the pesticides being used there.

What I discovered was that we were coming up against a brick wall. We were told by University representatives of the proprietary nature of the research contracts, and that they would not disclose some pesticides to us. I learned of the tests that the University ran at the farm to track nitrates in the ground, and that they didn't test at peak times when the compounds were likely to show up. And I saw the unwillingness of University officials to go further to ensure our well-being beyond what was already being done. We had asked the officials not to use compounds they cannot test for, and they said they would not change their policy.

So, right now, we are stuck. Our community is wary of the information we have been given by the University- wary enough that many of us have started changing how we use our tap water. Many neighbors, including us, use filters for our drinking water, or have contracted to get bottled water instead. Some are looking at buying expensive whole-house water filters. The University has assured us of our safety, but we feel uncomfortable risking our health with those assurances.

What we really need is an independent entity to look at the experimental farm, to make sure our health is not being threatened, as HB 5480 will do. It is a step in the right direction. I am glad that the University is willing to take this step with us, to work toward a solution for our concerns. Once we all know the true impact that increased experimentation is having on our community, we can act accordingly. My hope is that UConn's assurances are accurate. Then I can start drinking water straight from the tap again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donna Becotte
28 Storrs Heights Road
Storrs, CT 06268



FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT
MARCH 15 2013

HB 6536
HB 6537
HB 6542
SB 1019

To the Chairmen, Sen. Ed Meyer and Rep. Linda Gentile, and Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect and enhance Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and educating the public about the importance of water stewardship. Our 450 members include almost all of the state's river and watershed conservation groups, representing many thousand Connecticut residents

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on bills before you today. I will address them in their order on the agenda.

HB 5480 AA REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM. Support.

The agricultural research at UConn is an important benefit to the state. The proposed bill would require a review of safety precautions relating to UConn's use of pesticides at its research farm on Rte 195, south of the main campus in Storrs. The review would cover storage, application protocols, and water testing. The assessment is to be done by DEEP and DPH, who will report findings and recommendations to the CGA. This kind of safety review is important to do periodically when toxic substances are involved. It is especially timely when the effects of pesticides on health and the environment are being scrutinized statewide.

A few notes. Pesticides can travel through air and water. They can blow from one property to another. They can travel in water from one property to another. They can be carried on clothing, on vehicles, and by animals. Storage of hazardous waste materials has been a problem at the university, with the main collection area still being the converted coy dog kennel in the Fenton River watershed.

As described in the 2012 OLR Report *UCONN RESEARCH FARM* by J. L. Kaminski Leduc, the pesticides being tested at the UConn farm include over-the-counter products; restricted products theoretically available only to licensed persons (but definitely available through the internet and probably other sources); and 26 secret proprietary formulas. In 2011, more than 100 applications were made, primarily in spring and summer of herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides. The brand names are largely familiar, with many brands having different formulas. Conversely, the same chemical can be sold under different names. For example, the

insecticides Imidipro and Merit both rely on imidacloprid (the suspected agent in the die-off of honey bees).

The brands studied in 2011 in Connecticut include Malathion, Surfian AS, Crossbow, Razor Pro, Roundup, Triplet, Merit, Tenacity, Milstop, Oxidate, Actinovate, Serenade Max, Dimension 2EW, Strategy, Sandea, Impact, Pristine, Qunitac, Ridomil Bravo, Sevin SL, Curalan EG, Tempo GC, Dithlopyr 40 WSB, Imidipro, Lesco 3-Way, and Heritage. The names are brilliant.

The research appears to be weighted toward turf grass. Of the approximately 34 research projects in 2011-2012, more than a dozen relate to turf. Of these studies, one focuses on organic turf management.

Many of the chemicals are applied in small amounts in relatively small areas (less than an acre). Nevertheless, year after year, the farm is the site of extensive applications of dangerous substances. A safety review of handling of the materials and packaging, from arrival to disposal, including unaccounted losses, is warranted in order to protect and reassure the public.

HB 6537, AAC WATER QUALITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. Support.

Rivers Alliance has a long history with this bill and the problem it addresses. Rivers Alliance files on efforts by the state and local communities to bring about prudent water management on the UConn campus go back to 1996. (We were founded in 1992). In 2000, in the midst of battles between environmental advocates and the UConn administration, AG Richard Blumenthal issued a formal opinion that UConn and other state water suppliers are not legally water companies. Numerous UConn development projects were not in compliance with the rules applying to protection of drinking-water watershed lands (Class I and II lands). UConn insisted it was not a water company, and the AG agreed, although he expressed interest in a requirement that UConn honor the spirit of water company laws. The reason for the ruling was that the statute defining water companies did not mention the state in the enumeration of the entities that are water companies (The relevant documents are available from the Council on Environmental Quality, from Rivers Alliance, and elsewhere.)

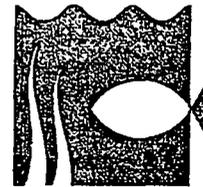
The ruling meant that, since UConn was not a water company, it did not have any legal obligation to comply with the mandates for protecting drinking-water watersheds. (By the statutory definition, such lands must belong to a water company. Similar land in a public drinking-water watershed, but *not* owned by a water company, is sometimes called "Class I-like land" or "Class II-like land." If owned by a water company, the land would be almost totally unavailable for new development or substantial changes of use.) Much of the UConn campus is Class I- and Class I-like land.

Rivers Alliance supports the intention of this bill to identify UConn in Storrs as a water company and to require it to follow the rules for water companies. We recognize complexities, especially with regard to land-use issues. We also recognize that UConn has voluntarily submitted water supply plans to the Department of Public Health. It has mapped its aquifer protection areas. It has an agreement with the state to avoid drying up the Fenton River as it did in 2005.

In many ways, UConn behaves like any large water company. It delivers water not only for uses on campus but also off-campus; and it sells water. It even somewhat voluntarily protects its drinking-water watershed lands. But it is less regulated than any similar supplier.



**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**



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Connecticut Fund for the Environment

**Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Before the Committee on Environment**

*In support of HB 6537, AN ACT CONCERNING WATER QUALITY AND THE
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.*

*In support of HB 6536, AN ACT CONCERNING GENERAL PERMITS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.*

*In support of HB 5480, AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF
CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM.*

*In opposition to SB 1019, AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE STREAMLINING
AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.*

Submitted by Lauren Savidge
Legal Fellow
March 15, 2013

Connecticut Fund for the Environment works to protect and improve the land, air and water of Connecticut. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and members of the Committee on Environment,

HB 6537: Connecticut Fund for the Environment (“CFE”) submits this testimony in support of Proposed HB 6537, An Act Concerning Water Quality and the University of Connecticut. If passed, this legislation would require the University of Connecticut to comply with certain water supply planning procedures that are required of other water companies. While much of this proposed legislation focuses on land owned by UConn, this bill highlights the need for water planning throughout the state, especially in and around UConn.

We must ensure that our state has a clean and sufficient drinking water supply to meet current and future needs and keep our inland waterways healthy. Clean and safe public drinking water has been a state priority for years. Drinking water quality is directly affected by the maintenance of source water watershed lands because these lands act as natural filters, trapping sediment, chemicals and other pollutants in the water. This legislation would regulate UConn as a water company and provide the same strong source water watershed land protections, also known as Class I and Class II lands as defined in Section 25-37c of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Additionally, water supply planning must be improved throughout the state. In its 2010 report to the General Assembly, the Department of Public Health ("DPH") stated the need for a statewide water management plan and that it would draft such a plan to address critical statewide water issues. A statewide plan is necessary to outline goals and policies to guide future development and water company projects that minimize the impact on water quality.

However, no such plan has been developed or implemented. Until a statewide water plan is created, the state drinking water supply is at risk of over-use in certain areas and abundance in others because of poor planning across the state regions. For example, there is a controversial interbasin water diversion that may be proposed that takes water from reservoirs in the Farmington River Watershed to the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus in the Thames River basin. This diversion goes against smart growth principles and pumps water into a rural area, away from the developed areas of the state.

More water management planning before large interbasin transfers take place, both around UConn and statewide, would facilitate cooperation and ensure that water supply expansions consider future impacts on the regional and overall state drinking water supply.

HB 6536: CFE also submits this testimony in support of Proposed HB 6536, An Act Concerning General Permits of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. If passed, this legislation would allow the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") to collect an annual fee for general permits.

General permit programs at DEEP are an effective means to monitor projects with environmental impacts throughout the state and grant permits in a timely fashion so regulated projects are not unduly delayed. For the general permit regulatory programs to remain effective and carry out their respective environmental goals, DEEP must have the resources to monitor compliance with the permits.

However, DEEP is an agency of limited resources. This annual fee on general permit holders would provide support to the agency to monitor compliance from the entities being regulated and receiving the benefit. The fee is minimal enough that it would not detrimentally impact regulated individuals.

HB 5480: Additionally, CFE submits this testimony in support of Proposed HB 5480, An Act Requiring an Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm. If passed, this legislation would protect water quality and overall public health by requiring an assessment of pesticide practices at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

Clean drinking water is a basic human necessity and public drinking water systems must be regulated to protect and preserve the quality of drinking water for human consumption. Consuming contaminated drinking water can lead to long term and chronic health problems through waterborne diseases. Pesticides often infiltrate groundwater and can contaminate public drinking wells. It is important for UConn to assess its pesticide use and application to protect the integrity of drinking water in the area.

SB 1019: Finally, CFE submits this testimony in opposition to Section 14 of Proposed SB 1019, An Act Concerning Administrative Streamlining at the Department of Energy and

General Assembly

Committee Bill No. 5480

January Session, 2013

LCO No 3983

03983HB05480ENV

Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by

(ENV)

AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened

Section 1 (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than October 31, 2013, the Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection and Public Health shall conduct an assessment of the practices employed at The University of Connecticut Research Farm. Such assessment shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) An examination of the procedures for the storage and application of pesticides on said farm, (2) a review of the protocols used to ensure the safe application of pesticides, including, but not limited to, any pesticide that requires an experimental use permit issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and (3) an evaluation of the water testing regimen at said farm, including, but not limited to, a review of the timing, locations and types of such testing, the number of wells subject to such testing and the types of pesticides identified by such testing.

(b) Not later than February 1, 2014, the Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection and Public Health shall submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment any recommendations for legislation or revised practices at said farm that the departments determine are necessary as a result of the assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section

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March 15, 2013

My name is Marc Weston and I am the Golf Course Superintendent at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington, CT. I am also a class of 1996 graduate of the University of Connecticut, with a degree in Horticulture

I first became involved with the UCONN research farm in 1993, with some of my classes and labs being held there. This is where I had my hands-on educational experiences in turfgrass maintenance. The projects that we were involved in as students always were based on applying best management practices in the use of water, pesticides, and fertilizers

I was fortunate enough to have exceptional professors at UCONN who stressed the importance of sustainability and the need to always remain current with the research being done. Those values were instilled in me 20 years ago from the UCONN professors and my work at the research farm.

Since graduating from UCONN, I have seen the university launch the turfgrass program and expand their first-class research farm. The research farm is a tremendous asset to UCONN, its students, and the turfgrass industry. It is extremely valuable to me, in my work, to have research being done in our state, at this research farm. Their research efforts help me to determine product timing and rates, and provide guidance to reduce the amount of water, pesticides, and fertilizers I use on my own golf course.

I am extremely grateful to have the UCONN research farm as a resource for our industry. Professors are always available to discuss research that is being conducted or to provide advice related to agronomical issues and challenges that may be occurring around the state. They have given countless educational presentations about the value of their research, which has helped our industry develop environmentally sound maintenance practices.

In conclusion, if restrictions were imposed on the work the research farm is able to do in the future, I would be concerned that they would not be able to provide the valuable information, insight, and guidance that has benefitted the turfgrass industry in Connecticut. I am strongly opposed to Committee Bill No. 5480 and any restrictions that would be placed on agricultural research at the University of Connecticut's research farm.

Thank you for your consideration

Marc Weston, CGCS

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Testimony on Committee Bill No. 5480
LCO No. 3983
by
David Peterson, CT Representative for CARET

Good afternoon Environment Committee Chairs & Members:

My name is David Peterson, President and owner of Peterson Landscaping Service, Inc., a small landscaping business located in West Hartford. I am also a member of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, the Connecticut Environmental Council and the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association where I serve on the Board of Directors. In addition, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Elizabeth Park Conservancy and on the Dean's Advisory Board at the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Three years ago, I was chosen to represent the University of Connecticut as their delegate to the Council for Agriculture, Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET). CARET seeks to enhance national support and understanding of the land-grant university system's food and agricultural research, extension, and teaching programs that enhance the quality of life for all people. All 50 states, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are part of CARET.

Today, I am here to oppose Committee Bill # 5480 requiring an assessment of the use of certain pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

U.S. pesticide regulations require all pesticides to be registered and examined, or exempted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The pesticide registration process includes EPA's evaluation of the product's ingredients; the environmental impacts of pesticide use on the specific site or crop; the amount, frequency and timing of its use; and storage and disposal practices.

Pesticide development and testing by the crop protection industry, as well as EPA registration take an average of nine years for each new product introduced to the market. These products undergo an average of 120 health, safety and environmental tests to ensure their safety and effectiveness prior to being given registration. To be granted an EPA registration, each product must demonstrate that it would not cause "unreasonable adverse effects on human health or the environment."

After approval by the EPA, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection further regulates the use, storage and disposal practices within Connecticut. DEEP also oversees licensing for pesticide users. The UConn research facilities are adequately monitored.

Agricultural research finds practical solutions to a wide range of issues related to plant and animal production. Resource sustainability is a key focus that includes constantly seeking information to improve water, soil, climate, pest control and a host of cultural practices. Pesticide research leads to increased crop yields making it possible for less than 2% of the U.S. population to produce enough food for us all.

In a struggling economy and with the rising needs of our people, the research being done at UConn is more important than ever before. Connecticut agriculture adds over 3.2 billion dollars to our economy, supports more than 1,100 small businesses and provides over 25,000 Connecticut jobs. The research and teaching (through extension programs) that is provided by the University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources is both critical to this vital part of our economy and to the quality of life we enjoy in Connecticut. There is no need to impede their progress with any further unnecessary and costly assessments.

Thank you for your time.

David C. Peterson
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(860) 233-0305
davidpeterson51@comcast.net

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Written Testimony of Robert W. Coughlin
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee
March 15, 2013

**Testimony in support of HB No. 5480, An Act Requiring an Assessment of the Use of
Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in favor **HB No. 5840**

My name is Robert Coughlin and I have lived at 49 Storrs Heights Road in Storrs CT since 1977. Until I retired several years ago, I was a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at UConn, serving also as Department Head for several years. After retirement I continued to do some unpaid committee work for my Department and I look back at a generally happy and productive career at UConn where I now enjoy emeritus professor status.

I enthusiastically support Committee Bill HB No. 5480 co-sponsored by Rep Haddad, 54th District. This bill is directed at oversight through assessment, review and evaluation by the CT Departments of EEP and PH with respect to the UConn Research Farm. This farm is located within a residential neighborhood in close proximity to many homes, one of which is mine. I understand that at least 90 toxic chemicals are warehoused at the farm and regularly released to the environment by application to land and crops in experimental research programs. Such research is supported by grants and contracts from extramural entities. Clearly work at the farm attracts revenue to UConn and advances the careers and interests of the students, faculty, staff and administrators associated with the farm. However there appears to be no oversight and review of farm operation by an outside, independent, disinterested organization qualified to monitor and assess risk and safety aspects regarding the release of the toxic chemicals into the environment so close to residential houses. Subject Bill is directed at such oversight.

I would like to emphasize that this research farm is not simply a farm in the usual sense of the word. It can be better described as a 153-acre outdoor laboratory where a large number of experimental toxic chemicals are released to the environment by application as pesticides to crops. Many of these experimental chemicals are not registered for agricultural use, with no accepted or approved protocols for their application and release to the environment.

My neighbors and I have looked but not found any similar research farm operation so close to where people live and obtain their drinking water. We are concerned about the possibility that the toxic and potentially carcinogenic chemicals regularly released to the environment by the UConn farm could be entering drinking water obtained from our residential wells. Many of us have started to use filtered and bottled water in response to such fears. A related fear is that an explosion or fire at the chemical storage building on the farm could broadcast such chemicals over a wide area far beyond the surrounding homes.

I might add that many of my neighbors living near the farm are employed by UConn and their careers and livelihoods depend on such employment. Thus many are reluctant to express their concerns overtly and vigorously in a way that they fear might jeopardize their employment and advancement at UConn. Nevertheless a neighborhood Water Committee was formed in 2009

and ever since then the committee has been expressing concern publically and in frequent meetings with UConn personnel about the potential harmful impact of the research farm on the drinking water we obtain from our wells.

As a result of concerns expressed by residents UConn has tried to allay neighborhood fears by conducting a sampling and testing program for a small fraction of the chemicals employed at the farm. However, in the view of many residents such programs are inadequate in that they rely on a limited number of samples taken long after the chemicals are released to the environment and the samples are analyzed for only a few of the chemicals that could be applied. UConn will not give us more detailed information about where, when and what chemicals are applied, arguing that divulging such information would violate confidentiality agreements entered with the organizations that support the research. Most importantly there is no oversight by an independent, disinterested, outside agency of the monitoring, safety procedures, record keeping and risk reduction that UConn employs or ought to employ. Subject Bill would bring about such oversight and transparency that I and my neighbors feel is sorely needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert W. Coughlin

Map of Research Farm is attached

3/14/13

Print - Maps

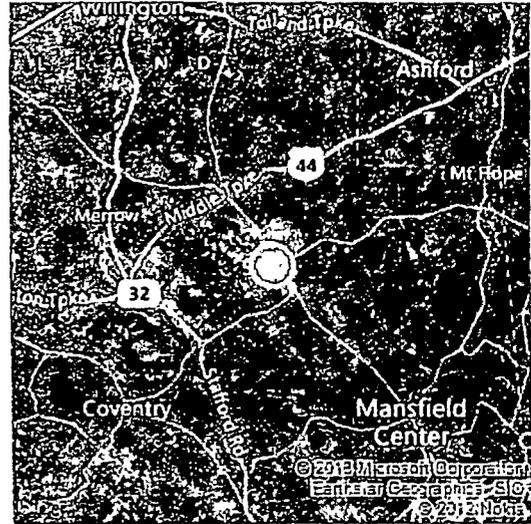
bing Maps

Storrs, CT

My Notes

UConn Research Farm
includes rectangular fields.
Access to Farm is via
Agronomy Road

On the go? Use m.bing.com to find maps,
directions, businesses, and more



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Written Testimony of

Scott Ramsay, Legislative Chair

Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents

**5480 AN ACT REQUIRING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF CERTAIN PESTICIDES AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF CONNECTICUT RESEARCH FARM**

Environment Committee

March 15, 2013

Good morning Senator Meyer and the members of the Environment Committee. My name is Scott Ramsay, I'm the Legislative Chair of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. I'm here today to testify on 5480, an act requiring the assessment of the use of certain pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm. I believe that 5480 could be detrimental to continued research at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

I am testifying in support of the Plant Science programs at the University of Connecticut UCONN is a valuable source of information, research and support to all of the varying elements of the Green industry, not only in-state but throughout the region. UCONN has a reputation in the turf industry as a leader in developing newer, greener and more sustainable Best Management Programs (BMP) and elements of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems. Our industry is moving towards lowering our environmental footprint and is dependent upon research institutions to provide the direction and data necessary to make the next steps towards these sustainable programs. As an industry we are supportive of UCONN's knowledge and research with cooperative efforts and fund raising. There are many groups throughout New England and the entire Northeast who support research at UCONN because of its vibrant staff and innovative outlook.

I personally have hired many students and graduates of the UCONN program. The education and experience that they gain at the Research Farm with hands on, real world practices is invaluable to their placement and advancement in their careers. UConn is developing a national exposure for their alumni, so are the students that are dependent on the education they receive at the UConn Research Farm.

My concern is that the unintended consequences of this bill that could affect the amount and depth of research that currently is underway and the research that still needs to be studied. UCONN began as a Land Grant College and as an agricultural research institution, today that work is as important as it was then.

I moved to Connecticut 30 years ago as a new graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a degree in plant science. At that time URI was, in my opinion, the preeminent Turf program in the country I have watched that program hobbled over the years to the point where it is nearly non-existent. UConn has successfully filled this void, their work not only must continue but there is so much more to be undertaken to provide the next generation of turf management and managers.

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**Testimony of Zoe Strickler in favor of Committee Bill No. 5480,
An Act Requiring an Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides
at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.**

March 15, 2013

Good Morning Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Zoe Strickler. I and my husband George Gibson, and our daughter Chloe, age 14, are ten-year residents of the Storrs Heights neighborhood. Our home and our well lie approximately 350 feet from the UConn Experimental Research Farm.

I, and my family, strongly support Bill No. 5480. As a parent of one of the children living in this community whose bodies and nervous systems are still in development, and who are growing up downhill and downwind from this test site,

I am very concerned to know the possible effects on human health from any pesticides being used at the site (including any fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides that may fall under the broad term "pesticide.")

The turf-grass research currently underway at the University Farm is sponsored by a private corporation with a commercial interest in the research. Our neighbors have been told by the University that of some *90 chemicals* being applied *in one study alone*, 31 cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality agreements with the sponsor. We have been told that because some of these chemicals are "experimental," *tests do not yet exist* that can confirm whether they are seeping into local water supplies. We cannot find out how often the substances are applied, or in what quantities, nor can we confirm their safety for human exposure.

Like many, but not all, of the neighbors living in the vicinity of the UConn Research Farm we are a University family. My husband and I have both worked on research at the university and we understand well the mission of a publicly-funded institution; it is something of a sacred, public trust to conduct research that advances the public good. All research at a state institution should observe the Hippocratic dictum "first do no harm." However, because the turf-grass research is privately funded, oversight for public safety is not built into the grant structure as would be the case with federal agency funding. Bill No. 5480 requires much needed safety evaluation by appropriate State agencies – the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Department of Public Health.

It seems important to mention that the results of this research are intended for end-use on golf courses. Golf courses, and other turf grass sites, are typically located in, or near, high-density areas of human habitation and often near public water sources. Individuals at risk from these chemicals are, therefore, not just the neighbors in Storrs Heights, but potentially residents of communities across the State of Connecticut and the U.S.



State of Connecticut
House of Representatives

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Representative Gregory Haddad
54th Assembly District
Mansfield

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Written Testimony of Gregory Haddad

Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee
March 15, 2013

In support of H.B. 5480, An Act Requiring An Assessment Of The Use Of Certain Pesticides At
The University Of Connecticut Research Farm.

Good Morning Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and members of the Environment Committee:

I am Gregory Haddad, State Representative from the 54th House district which is comprised of most of the Town of Mansfield including the main campus of the University of Connecticut.

I am here to testify in support of House Bill 5480, An Act Requiring an Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm. I introduced this legislation which you drafted into a Committee Bill to help resolve a long-standing dispute between the University of Connecticut and a group of Mansfield citizens who reside in a neighborhood adjacent to the farm. All of the properties that border the research facility or are nearby have private dug or deep water wells. For the purposes of open disclosure, I'd like you to know that I, myself, live in the neighborhood adjacent to the farm.

Like other farms, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides and insecticides are used during the regular course of business and the university has publicly disclosed use of some of these materials. These pesticides include many materials known to be potentially harmful, but are also used commercially. The number of pesticides used or stored at the farm is greater than 90. You get an idea of the breadth of chemicals and products used by looking at attachment C of the OLR report I've attached to my testimony. This is just a list of the non-proprietary pesticide application records for 2011.

Importantly, the UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility is not like other agricultural farms in the state. I believe this farm to be the only university-run experimental research farm in Connecticut. As such, UConn uses pesticides in a manner that would not be allowed by other parties. Much of their work is aimed at increasing the allowable uses of commercially available pesticides. What is notable about these experiments is that they are using the materials in a manner inconsistent with the approved label recommendations. And much of this research is conducted under research grants

that prohibit the university from disclosing what the material is or how it is used. Additionally, while UConn contends that most of the pesticides are commercially available, they stop well short of guaranteeing that no new-to-market experimental pesticides are also being applied. Attachment D in the OLR research report lists proprietary pesticides applied at the research farm in 2009-2011. The records list 38 active ingredients that are not disclosed for proprietary reasons.

Many residents in neighboring properties are worried. They are concerned for their own health and well-being. Some have stopped drinking their well water altogether. Others have installed carbon filters. Some have had their water tested for the presence of the known pesticides. This effort is significantly hampered because the university will not disclose all of the materials because of the private, proprietary nature of the research. And so, it is impossible for a private well-water owner, or our local Department of Health, or anyone else to test for the presence of these pesticides in our drinking water.

UConn has implemented a testing regime using wells on the research farm property. What we know about their testing program is that they check their wells for the presence of only 30% of the pesticides used at the farm. They have repeatedly assured the residents that the testing regime is an adequate safeguard. But not surprisingly, many are unconvinced.

This bill would require an independent and comprehensive assessment of the farm's procedures for storing, handling, applying and testing for pesticides. The bill requires DEEP and DPH to report back to this committee if they find inadequate practices or have recommendations for new legislation that result from their assessment. I believe that residents deserve the peace of mind that can only come by subjecting UConn's pesticide use and testing regime to third party scrutiny.

This bill acknowledges that we have a special obligation to ensure the public's safety at this unique facility. Since the University of Connecticut is a state agency, the state would be liable if any issues arose that adversely impacted the environment or public health.

I have been working with the DEEP and with DPH to ensure that the assessment can be conducted within their available resources. I believe they can and that their technical expertise in this area will be critical to ensuring that best practices are employed at the farm and that safeguards are put in place to ensure that private drinking wells are safe from harm.

I wish I could report to you that this bill satisfies all of the residents in the neighborhood, but some feel that the bill does not go nearly far enough. As their neighbor and a resident with a well which is also at risk, I agree with them. As their legislator, I feel that this bill moves us and the university in the right direction and I am grateful that many in my neighborhood agree.



OLR RESEARCH REPORT

December 18, 2012

2012-R-0527

UCONN RESEARCH FARM

By: Janet L. Kaminski Leduc, Senior Legislative Attorney

You asked a series of questions about the University of Connecticut Plant Science Research and Education Facility (i.e., the UConn Research Farm or facility). Professor Richard McAvoy, Head of UConn's Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, has provided answers to your questions. The questions and answers follow.

Provide a brief description of the UConn Research Farm.

The UConn Research Farm is located on Route 195, approximately two miles south of UConn's campus in Storrs, Connecticut. The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA), within the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, manages the farm. The facility has supported the teaching, research, and public outreach responsibilities for PSLA for more than 95 years and is the sole field research site for all plant-related research in the college.

The 153-acre facility is partially wooded with slightly less than 39 acres under active cultivation. The facility also includes two teaching classrooms; the Hicks-Burr teaching nursery for woody ornamental crops; three greenhouses; and several barns and buildings used for program support, staff, equipment maintenance, and storage. The university has invested in the necessary physical support infrastructure, including irrigation systems, access roads, deer exclusion fencing, and buildings.

The facility's teaching, research, and outreach activities are conducted in the areas of ecology, entomology, horticulture, forages, soils, sustainable agriculture, vegetables, weed ecology and control, turfgrass and athletic field management, and woody and herbaceous ornamental crops. Courses taught at the facility allow students to gain hands-on practical experience and discipline-specific skills used in commercial trade.

In a typical year, the facility hosts a number of educational events that address the needs of both the general public and agricultural commodity groups (e.g., Connecticut Master Gardeners, Connecticut Nursery and Landscape industry).

What type of research is conducted at the facility?

Research objectives vary widely with grant funding, investigator interests, and year. Most projects relate to integrated pest management; horticultural crops; golf course and athletic field management; genetics; plant ecology, such as invasive species management; and vegetable trials, including the annual All-American selection trials. Most projects involve multi-year studies, so the specific activities during any one year will vary.

Is the research funded by private or public sources?

Grants from public agencies, private foundations, and private businesses support the facility's research, with the total value of research generally exceeding \$2 million. Most of the research support comes from federal sources.

What are the specific sources of funding and how much does each source provide in funding?

See Attachment A.

What is the aggregate amount of private research funding for projects at the facility? What percentage of the total value of research projects conducted is this?

Privately supported field research for 2011 to 2012 totaled about \$245,000, or about 7.8% of all funded research during this period, which was about \$3,139,000. The facility also receives in-kind support in the form of donated equipment and cash donations.

Are agreements entered into with private sources subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)?

Generally, agreements between UConn and private parties are public records governed by FOIA and subject to disclosure. Under FOIA, certain categories of records are exempt from disclosure (e.g., trade secrets). Whether a particular agreement comes within an exemption would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

What fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are used at the facility? Does UConn keep records of all applications?

As required by law, UConn maintains pesticide application records. The facility's farm manager compiles pesticide application records annually for public disclosure. (The most recent list was compiled in Spring 2012, and covers applications made during the 2011 season.) Fertilizer usage is based on standard crop management practices or as required to meet the objectives of the research study.

See Attachments B and C for pesticide applications made in 2010 and 2011.

Additionally, pesticide applications made to assess turfgrass disease control in research trials can be found at <http://www.turf.uconn.edu/reports.shtml>.

See Attachment D for information on all proprietary material used in efficacy trials from 2009 to 2011.

Are all of the fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides used fully approved for public use by the federal and state government agencies responsible for permitting the use of such material?

All non-proprietary material used at the facility are labeled for public use, such as use on residential lawns, ornamental plants, or crop plants. In most cases, the active ingredient applied is available for general use by homeowners and can be purchased at any garden supply store. The purchase and application of some material require a private or commercial⁹ applicator license.

Of the proprietary compounds used, all material is subject to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health, safety, and environmental impact testing and approval process before the facility can conduct field testing on target crops. Applications are made at the facility with oversight by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's licensed Demonstration and Research Supervisory applicators.

Most of the proprietary material applied at the facility is already labeled for commercial use. The contracted research primarily investigates the use of existing products in proprietary trials to expand label recommendations of registered pesticides to other commodities.

If any material used at the facility is not fully approved for public use, are there other non-secure open air sites where similar materials are used?

As described above, all material used at the facility are fully approved for public use or used only with appropriate permitting from the U.S. EPA.

Does UConn perform similar research at other sites?

The answer is no. The UConn Research Farm is the only UConn field research and education site for plant science-related research.

Does UConn know if other state or private universities conduct similar research?

UConn has no direct knowledge of whether other universities conduct similar research, but considers it unlikely.

JKL:ts

Attachment A

Grant Funded Research: Active projects 2011/2012

Sponsor Name	Project Title	Award Increment Total Sponsor Costs
University of Vermont	Management of Basll Downy Mildew using Organic Fungicides and Nitrogen Fertilization Rate	\$6,705.00
USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture	Perennial Grasses for Bioenergy: Pollen Aerobiology, Biocontainment and Plant Genetics	\$306,023.00
USDA Biological Risk Assessment Grant Program	Characterization of environmental hazards and exposure from herbicide-resistant bentgrass	\$300,000.00
University of Vermont	Aronia Berries: A Profitable Nutraceutical Crop for the Northeast	\$151,821.00
AECOM, Inc. dba AECOM Environment	Crocanthemum dumosum Bushy Rocknose Genetics	\$7,000.00
Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture	Bringing Deep Zone Tillage to CT/New England Vegetable Farms	\$34,394.00
USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	Biological Control of Mille-a-minute Weed (<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i>) with <i>Rhinoncomimus latipes</i>	\$22,792.00
Industry Grant-In-aid	Traffic Effects During Establishment on Regenerative Perennial Ryegrass	\$6,500.00
Industry Grant-In-aid	Evaluation of Rhizomatous Tall Fescue	\$2,400.00
University of Rhode Island	Pilot Testing of Objective Methods to Guide Nitrogen Fertilization of Turf Sod	\$4,000.00
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service	Sensor-Based Nitrogen Fertilization Recommendations for Sod Producers to Enhance Economic and Environmental Benefits	\$37,985.00
USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service	Sensor-Based Nitrogen Fertilization Recommendations for Sod Producers to Enhance Economic and Environmental Benefits	\$33,914.00
USDA	Soil Amino-Sugar Nitrogen and Active Carbon as a Predictor of Turf Growth and Quality	\$40,000.00

Sponsor Name	Project Title	Award Increment Total Sponsor Costs
USDA	Fall Verdure Sap Nitrate as a Predictor of Turf Quality Response	\$36,000.00
Co-sponsors: New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation/CT Department of Environmental Protection	Determining the Effectiveness of Leaf Compost Topdressing and Core Cultivation when Managing Athletic Fields Organically	\$34,362.00
Co-sponsors: New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation/Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, Inc	Impact of Fairway Topdressing on Soil Physical Properties, Turfgrass Quality, Disease Severity and Earthworm Castings	\$8,227.00
Industry	Portable Roadway Systems Evaluated Using Simulated Traffic on Playing Surfaces for Non-Sporting Events	\$12,000.00
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation	Improving Nitrogen Management of Anthracnose using a Field Technique to Determine Follar Nitrate-N	\$9,817.00
USDA	Biology, ecology and management of emerging pests of annual bluegrass on golf courses	\$13,799.00
Proprietary Industry - 2012	Evaluation of commercially available and novel plant protectants for turfgrass disease control	\$73,200.00
Proprietary Industry -2011	Evaluation of commercially available and novel plant protectants for turfgrass disease control	\$63,300.00
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation	Optimizing Pregermination Techniques for Four Turfgrass Species	\$8,000.00
Noer(O.J.) Research Foundation	Quantifying Sand Particle Shape and Particle Size Distribution: Resultant Effects of Root Zone Stiffness and Root Viability	\$10,000.00
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation	The Effect of Natural Playing Surfaces on Athletic Performance	\$10,000.00

Sponsor Name	Project Title	Award Increment Total Sponsor Costs
New England Regional Turfgrass Foundation	Cultivation and Manganese Application Effects on Summer Patch Severity In Compacted and Non-compacted Turfgrass Areas	\$17,604.00
USDA/National Institute of Food and Agriculture	From Problem to Resource: An Integrated Training Approach to Biologic Systems Management	\$120,000.00
University of South Dakota	Willow Biomass Crop Feedstock Development Plan for the Northeast and Midwest U.S.	\$30,000.00
USDA	New England Invasive Plant Center	\$276,120.00
DOE/Department of Energy	BioEnergy Initiative for Connecticut	\$388,042.00
USDA [subproject to Univ. of Maine]	Enhancing Floral Resources for Conservation Biological Control In Urban Landscapes	\$30,000.00
CT Department of Agriculture	Evaluating Landscape Adaptability of Novel Native Shrubs as Alternatives to Invasive Exotics for the Nursery Industry	\$33,809.00
University of Connecticut Research Foundation(UCRF)	Effect of nutrient supply on production of mixed species green roof systems	\$22,551.00
USDA/CREES	A Multi-Scale Approach to the Forecast of Potential Distributions of Invasive Plant Species	\$545,000.00
NSF/BIO	Spatiotemporal Models of Phenology - Integrating the Effects of Climate Change In Plants and Animals	\$59,497.00
Multi-state Hatch projects	Several projects: (1) Conservation, Management, Enhancement and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources (2) Biological Control of Arthropod Pests and Weeds (3) Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component And System Development (4) Management of Annual Bluegrass on Golf Courses: Improved Practices for Maintenance, Pest Control, And Viable Techniques for Transition to More Desirable Grasses	\$111,414.00

Sponsor Name	Project Title	Award Increment Total Sponsor Costs
USDA Hatch projects	Several projects: (1) Characterizing gene flow between cultivated and Feral Agrostis plant populations to support Ecological risk assessment (2) Influence of Soil Chemical and Physical Characteristics on Growth of Short-rotation Woody Crops (3) Organic Fertilization for Greenhouse Crops (4) Soil Carbon Cycling in Cool-Season Turf Lawns in Relation to Management Practice (5) Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum) distribution and gene flow in New England	\$272,534.00
	Total Funding	\$3,138,810.00
	Total from Private Foundations and Industry	\$245,229.00

Attachment C

2011 Pesticide Application Records for the Plant Science Research and Education Farm						
Turfgrass research applications will be available in their Annual Report at Turf.uconn.edu/reports.shtml						
Field Designation	Trade Name	EPA Number	Type	Amount applied	Date of Application	Rate
A area	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	50 mls	5/12/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	1.4 qts	6/14/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	1.5 qts	7/1/2011	1.5 qts/ac
G1	Triplet SF	228-312	Herbicide	29.4 oz	6/2/2011	1.5 oz/1000 sqft
	Merit 2F	432-1312	Insecticide	20.1 oz	6/23/2011	0.6 oz/1000 sqft
	Tenacity	100-1267	Herbicide	2.14 oz	7/27/2011	5 oz/ac
	Propiconazole Pro	51036-403	Fungicide	20 oz	8/2/2011	2 oz/1000 sqft
	Tenacity	100-1267	Herbicide	1.15 oz	8/12/2011	5 oz/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	227 mls	8/24/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	200 mls	9/12/2011	1.5% v/v
G3	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	675 mls	5/13/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Triplet SF	228-312	Herbicide	68.6 oz	6/3/2011	1.5 oz/1000 sqft
G5	Millstop	70870-1068539	Fungicide	14.4 grams	7/27/2011	2.5 lbs/ac
	Millstop	70870-1068539	Fungicide	14.4 grams	8/3/2011	2.5 lbs/ac
	Millstop	70870-1068539	Fungicide	14.4 grams	8/10/2011	2.5 lbs/ac
	Millstop	70870-1068539	Fungicide	14.4 grams	8/17/2011	2.5 lbs/ac
	Millstop	70870-1068539	Fungicide	14.4 grams	8/25/2011	2.5 lbs/ac
	Oxldate	70299-2	Fungicide	38 ml	7/27/2011	0.6 gal/ac
	Oxldate	70299-2	Fungicide	38 ml	8/3/2011	0.6 gal/ac
	Oxldate	70299-2	Fungicide	38 ml	8/10/2011	0.6 gal/ac
	Oxldate	70299-2	Fungicide	76 ml	8/17/2011	1.2 gal/ac
	Oxldate	70299-2	Fungicide	76 ml	8/25/2011	1.2 gal/ac
	Actinovate	73314-1	Fungicide	5.3 grams	7/27/2011	10 oz/ac
	Actinovate	73314-1	Fungicide	5.3 grams	8/3/2011	10 oz/ac
	Actinovate	73314-1	Fungicide	5.3 grams	8/10/2011	10 oz/ac
	Actinovate	73314-1	Fungicide	5.3 grams	8/17/2011	10 oz/ac
	Actinovate	73314-1	Fungicide	5.3 grams	8/25/2011	10 oz/ac

	Serenade MAX	69592-11	Fungicide	15.5 grams	7/27/2011	2 lbs/ac
	Serenade MAX	69592-11	Fungicide	15.5 grams	8/3/2011	2 lbs/ac
	Serenade MAX	69592-11	Fungicide	15.5 grams	8/10/2011	2 lbs/ac
	Serenade MAX	69592-11	Fungicide	15.5 grams	8/17/2011	2 lbs/ac
	Serenade MAX	69592-11	Fungicide	15.5 grams	8/25/2011	2 lbs/ac
	Trilogy	70051-2	Fungicide	38 mls	7/27/2011	76.8 oz/ac
	Trilogy	70051-2	Fungicide	38 mls	8/3/2011	76.8 oz/ac
	Trilogy	70051-2	Fungicide	38 mls	8/10/2011	76.8 oz/ac
	Trilogy	70051-2	Fungicide	38 mls	8/17/2011	76.8 oz/ac
	Trilogy	70051-2	Fungicide	38 mls	8/25/2011	76.8 oz/ac
G7	Dimension 2EW	62719-542	Herbicide	8 oz	5/6/2011	16 oz/ac
	Triplet SF	228-312	Herbicide	41.8 oz	6/2/2011	1.5 oz/1000 sqft
	Roundup	524-573	Herbicide	130 mls	6/14/2011	0.75 qts/ac
	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	640 mls	6/20/2011	0.75 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	47 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 qts/ac
G6	Safer Soap	42697-59	Insecticide	25 oz	7/13/2011	0.5 oz/sqft
G9	Dimension 2EW	62719-542	Herbicide	8 oz	5/6/2011	16 oz/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	125 mls	5/12/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	50 ml	6/3/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Tenacity	100-1267	Herbicide	23 mls	8/26/2011	4 oz/1000 sqft
G10	Strategy	34704-830	Herbicide	4 pts	6/6/2011	4 pts/ac
	Sandea	81889-18-10163	Herbicide	0.5 oz	6/6/2011	0.5 oz/ac
	Impact	5481-524	Herbicide	0.25 oz	6/27/2011	0.75 oz/ac
	Impact	5481-524	Herbicide	3 ml	7/11/2011	0.75 oz/ac
	Pristine	7969199	Fungicide	393 grams	8/12/2011	18.5 oz/ac
	Quintec	62719375	Fungicide	1.4 oz	8/22/2011	5 oz/ac
	Ridomil Bravo	100-658	Fungicide	1024 grams	8/22/2011	2 lbs/ac
	Quintec	62719375	Fungicide	1.4 oz	8/26/2011	5 oz/ac
	Ridomil Bravo	100-658	Fungicide	1024 grams	8/26/2011	2 lbs/ac

G13	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	2.1 qts	9/27/2011	1.5 qts/ac
W3	Triplet SF	228-312	Herbicide	0.65 oz	6/2/2011	1.5 oz/1000 sqft
	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	710 mls	6/14/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Merit 2F	432-1312	Insecticide	7.3 oz	6/23/2011	0.6 oz/1000 sqft
	Quinclorac 75DF	73220-15	Herbicide	107 grams	6/28/2011	0.38 oz/1000 sqft
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	445 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Tenacity	100-1267	Herbicide	1.4 oz	7/27/2011	5 oz/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	142 mls	8/24/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	0.15 qts	9/27/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	100 mls	10/17/2011	1.5% v/v
W4	Scimitar	100-1078	Insecticide	4.19 oz	5/12/2011	0.23 oz/100 sqft
	Tenacity	100-1267	Herbicide	1.43 oz	5/25/2011	0.18 oz/1000 sq ft
	Dylox 80	432-1289	Insecticide	68 oz.	5/26/2011	3.75 oz/1000 sq ft
	Emerald	7969-196	Fungicide	160.1 gr	5/31/2011	0.18 oz/1000 sqft
	Tenacity	100-1267	Herbicide	1.43 oz	6/7/2011	1.43 oz/1000 sqft
	Prostar 70	432-1477	Fungicide	74.8 oz	6/27/2011	3 oz/1000 sqft
	Curalan EG	7969-224	Fungicide	202 grams	7/11/2011	1 oz/1000 sqft
	Prostar 70	432-1477	Fungicide	304 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 oz/1000 sqft
	Chipco Signature	432-890	Fungicide	1247 grams	7/11/2011	4 oz/1000 sqft
	Daconil Ultrex	50534-202-100	Fungicide	1585 grams	7/11/2011	5.1 oz/1000 sqft
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	50 mls	7/11/2011	1.5% v/v
	Curalan EG	7969-224	Fungicide	250 grams	7/11/2011	1 oz/1000 sqft
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	246 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Imidpro	42750-115-2217	Insecticide	4.8 oz	7/15/2011	0.6 oz/1000 sqft
	Emerald	7969-196	Fungicide	36 grams	7/26/2011	0.18 oz/1000 sqft
	Pro Star 70	432-1477	Fungicide	304 grams	7/26/2011	1.5 oz/1000 sqft
	Daconil Ultrex	50534-202-100	Fungicide	1603 grams	7/26/2011	5.1 oz/1000 sqft
	Chipco Signature	432-890	Fungicide	1247 grams	7/26/2011	4 oz/1000 sqft
	Primo Maxx	100-937	Fungicide	1.38 oz	7/26/2011	0.125 oz/1000 sqft
	Daconil Ultrex	50534-202-100	Fungicide	1132 grams	7/26/2011	5.1 oz/1000 sqft
	Tempo GC	432-1452	Fungicide	12.48 oz	7/26/2011	0.23 oz/1000 sqft
	Heritage TL	100-1191	Fungicide	9.8 oz	7/26/2011	1 oz/1000 sqft
	Curalan EG	7969-224	Fungicide	7 oz	7/26/2011	1 oz/1000 sqft

	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	227 mls	8/24/2011	1.5 qts/ac
W4E	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	100 mls	4/15/2011	1.5% v/v
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	75 mls	5/12/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	100 mls	5/13/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	600 mls	6/15/2011	1.5% v/v
	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	600 mls	6/29/2011	1.5% v/v
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	200 mls	7/15/2011	1.5% v/v
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	400 mls	8/19/2011	1.5% v/v
W5	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	225 mls	5/13/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Sevin SL	432-1227	Insecticide	87 oz	6/27/2011	2 oz/1000 sqft
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	227 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	25 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 % v/v
	Curalan EG	7969-224	Fungicide	7 oz	7/26/2011	1 oz/1000 sqft
	Tempo GC	432-1452	Fungicide	10.04 oz	7/26/2011	0.23 oz/1000 sqft
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	204 mls	8/24/2011	1.5 qts/ac
W21	Dithiopyr 40WSB	73220-13	Herbicide	3 oz	5/6/2011	10 oz/ac
	Triplet SF	228-312	Herbicide	6.4 oz	6/3/2011	1.5 oz/1000 sqft
	Compass	423-1371	Fungicide	85 grams	6/7/2011	0.18 oz/1000 sqft
	Tenacity	100-1267	Herbicide	1.46 oz	7/27/2011	5.0 oz/ac
W22	Dithiopyr 40WSB	73220-13	Herbicide	6 oz	5/6/2011	10 oz/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	407 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	25 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 % v/v
	Imidpro	42750-115-2217	Insecticide	9.2 oz	7/19/2011	0.6 oz/1000 sqft
	Tenacity	100-1267	Herbicide	86.7 mls	8/26/2011	8.0 oz/ac
	Lesco 3-Way	10404-43	Herbicide	65 oz	12/16/2011	1.5 oz/1000 sqft
W12	Dithiopyr 40WSB	73220-13	Herbicide	11 oz	5/6/2011	10 oz/ac
	Heritage	100-1191	Fungicide	95.8 oz	6/9/2011	2 oz/1000 sqft
	Heritage	100-1191	Fungicide	95.8 oz	7/15/2011	2 oz/1000 sqft
	Imidpro	42750-115-2217	Insecticide	24.8 oz	7/19/2011	0.6 oz/1000 sqft

S1	Goal 2xl	62719-424	Herbicide	1040 mls	5/13/2011	2.0 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	300 mls	7/6/2011	1.5% v/v
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	150 mls	8/3/2011	1.5% v/v
S3	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	473 mls	7/11/2011	1.5 qts/ac
P3	Roundup	525-573	Herbicide		6/14/2011	1.5 qts/ac
P4	Surflan A.S	62719-112	Herbicide	400 mls	7/18/2011	1.5% v/v
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	400 mls	7/18/2011	1.5% v/v
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	450 mls	11/7/2011	1.5% v/v
P5	Goal 2xl	62719-424	Herbicide	1248 mls	5/6/2011	2 qts/ac
	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	200 mls	5/26/2011	1.5 %v/v
	Roundup	524-573	Herbicide	651 mls	6/14/2011	1.5 qts/ac
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	150 mls	7/6/2011	1.5% v/v
	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	150 mls	8/2/2011	1.5% v/v
P8	Razor Pro	228-366	Herbicide	1600 mls	8/24/2011	1.5 qts/ac
Sand Green / LW	Emerald	7969-196	Fungicide	31.6 gr	5/31/2011	0.18 oz/1000 sqft
	Curalan EG	7969-224	Fungicide	49 grams	7/11/2011	1 oz/1000 sqft
	Heritage TL	100-1191	Fungicide	1.7 oz	7/26/2011	1 oz/1000 sqft
GHSE 2 & 3	M-Pede	62719-515	Insecticide	14 mls	1/10/2011	2% v/v
	M-Pede	62719-515	Insecticide	150 mls	3/25/2011	2% v/v
	Malation SE	51036-104	Insecticide	12 mls	4/15/2011	6 mls/gal
	M-Pede	62719-515	Insecticide	222 mls	5/19/2011	2% v/v
	Scythe	62719-529	Herbicide	1520 mls	5/20/2011	10% v/v
	Scythe	62719-529	Herbicide	1520 mls	9/8/2011	10% v/v
	Compass	432-1371	Fungicide	0.2 grams	12/2/2011	0.6 grams/gal
Burr GHSE	Malation SE	51036-104	Insecticide	12 mls	4/28/2011	6 mls/gal

	Malation 5E	51036-104	Insecticide	12 mls	5/5/2011	6 mls/gal
Building perimeters	Roundup	524-537	Herbicide	150 mls	5/5/2011	1.5% v/v
	Surflan A S	62719-112	Herbicide	270 mls	5/5/2011	
Deer Fence	Crossbow	62719-260-34704	Herbicide	1 350 mls	7/11/2011	4% v/v
Note v/v is volume (amount) of product to volume (amount) of water, used in spot application, not blanket broadcast						
Note Razor Pro has the same active ingredient as Roundup, just different trade names / manufacturers						

Attachment D

Proprietary Plant Protectants Applied at the UCONN Plant Science Research Facility in 2009 - 2011

Field efficacy trials of plant protectants have routinely been conducted at the UCONN Plant Science Research and Education Facility. All materials tested at UCONN have already been subjected and passed preliminary environmental fate and toxicological testing required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for registration of new pesticides. Efficacy trials are an important component of research and extension programs at universities throughout the United States to develop geographically relevant fungicide efficacy data. These data are subsequently used by researchers and extension personnel to develop recommendations for the responsible use of fungicides for control of common diseases of turfgrasses within the region.

In some cases, these trials are conducted in cooperation with manufacturers to evaluate fungicides for potential use on turfgrasses. Some of these fungicides contain active ingredients not currently registered for turfgrass disease control. However, the active ingredients tested are already used in commercially available materials registered for use in crop, fruit, and vegetable systems. Trials conducted by UCONN researchers in cooperation with manufacturers represent the final stages of development for new turfgrass fungicides prior to commercialization. If proven effective in university field trials across the country, a turf label could represent a new market and a competitive advantage for these companies.

Proprietary active ingredients evaluated at the UCONN Plant Science Research Facility are often given a code in agreement with cooperators to maintain confidentiality of new materials that may be introduced into the marketplace in the near future. The specific objectives of trials containing these materials vary, but often include:

- Screening various application rates and intervals to optimize disease control
- Comparison of new fungicides to preexisting materials commonly used in the industry
- Evaluating mixtures of one or more fungicides to assess compatibility of materials applied in "tank mixes" or marketed as premixed (combination of 2 active ingredients in same product) products.
- Demonstration of how new fungicides can be incorporated into seasonal disease management programs

The table below lists the coded materials that were applied to turfgrass research fields at the UCONN Plant Science Research and Education Facility during 2009, 2010 and 2011. Where possible, the active ingredient of the coded material has been provided. However, many of these materials are proprietary, and/or are subject to confidentiality agreements to protect the identity of the experimental materials. As stated above, the active ingredients in nearly all instances are EPA registered materials currently labeled for disease control in other diverse agricultural systems. Examples of a few of the other currently labeled uses of all of these materials can be found in the table below.

Continued from above

Compound	UCONN #	Active Ingredient(s)	Fungicide class	Trade name	Currently registered for use on:
proprietary a.i.	UC11-1	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	turfgrass
proprietary a.i.	UC11-2	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	blueberries, peppers, beans, mango, mint, onion, tomato, turfgrass, etc
		proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	turfgrass
proprietary a.i.	UC11-4	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	blueberries, peppers, beans, mango, mint, onion, tomato, turfgrass, etc
		proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	chills, onions, tobacco, tomato, lettuce, spinach
proprietary a.i.	UC11-5	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	blueberries, peppers, beans, mango, mint, onion, tomato, turfgrass, etc
proprietary a.i.	UC11-6	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	unknown
proprietary a.i.	UC11-7	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	plstachto, cherry, peach, pecan, almond, turfgrass
proprietary a.i.	UC11-8	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	seed treatment cereals, apples
		proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	turfgrass, cereals, brassica, asparagus, etc.
proprietary a.i.	UC11-9	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	soybeans
		proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	blueberries, peppers, beans, mango, mint, onion, tomato, turfgrass, etc
proprietary a.i.	UC11-10	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	turfgrass
proprietary a.i.	UC11-11	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	turfgrass, cereals, brassica, asparagus, etc
		proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	soybeans
proprietary a.i.	UC11-13	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	potato, cabbage, carrots, apples, legumes
proprietary a.i.	UC11-14	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	soybeans
proprietary a.i.	UC11-15	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	blueberries, peppers, beans, mango, mint, onion, tomato, turfgrass, etc.
proprietary a.i.	UC11-16	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.
proprietary a.i.	UC11-17	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	brassicas, cucurbits, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes, turfgrass
proprietary a.i.	UC11-18	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	kwl, apples, pears, peach, apricot, yams, turfgrass
proprietary a.i.	UC11-19	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	seed treatment cereals, apples
		proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	proprietary a.i.	turfgrass; cereals, brassica, asparagus, etc.



Environment Committee
March 15, 2013

Public Hearing
Testimony
By

Gregory J. Weidemann

Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
University of Connecticut

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 5480, An Act Requiring an Assessment of the Use of Certain Pesticides at the University of Connecticut Research Farm.

The UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility located two miles south of the Storrs campus has served as the primary research, education, and outreach facility for the plant sciences for almost 100 years. Currently more than \$2 million in externally funded research is conducted on the 153 acre site on an annual basis. Most of the research is closely aligned with addressing the needs of the plant industry in Connecticut including ornamentals and nursery crops, fruit and vegetable production, turfgrass management and field crop production. The facility serves as a learning laboratory for a wide range of plant science courses that provides students with a hands-on learning experience. Each year, the facility hosts a number of educational events that address the needs of the general public as well as professional groups.

Our research spans the breadth of plant agriculture including organic, low input sustainable systems as well as high input systems and is funded from a wide range of external sources including federal funding agencies, public agencies, foundations and private businesses. Our research focuses on developing best management practices for plant related agriculture, investigation of new technology before it enters the marketplace and the exploration and development of new technology to improve production. For producers, we serve as a source of research-based information on best management practices. Reflective of agriculture, a portion of our research includes the use pesticides as well as alternative control strategies. Of the 153 acres, approximately, 40 acres is under active cultivation with about 20 acres receiving any pesticide application. Our research normally utilizes small plots such that our use of pesticides is limited to small amounts.

As a publicly supported institution, UConn should serve as an example for land stewardship and safe use of pesticides whether for use in research or for maintenance of the facility. We recognize our need to hold to the highest standards. Therefore, UConn has greatly exceeded any statutory requirements for record keeping, reporting and monitoring supported by a thorough study of the drainage, soil characteristics and hydrology. UConn has established monitoring wells at the downslope margin of the property which are tested for nitrates and an extensive list of pesticides annually. By federal law, UConn cannot test any pesticides that have not been specifically permitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Although we believe we have all appropriate procedures and protocols in place, we would invite the appropriate state agencies to review our procedures and monitoring system and make any appropriate recommendations. We see no need for specific legislation to require such an assessment.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 8
2352 - 2684**

2013

Dear Committee on the Environment,

This is to voice my support for HB 6537, An Act Concerning Water Quality and the University of Connecticut, aimed at bringing the University of Connecticut into compliance with the laws governing other water systems. In addition, I would like to support two other environmental bills, HB 6536, aimed at strengthening the DEEP's oversight through permitting, and HB 5480, requiring assessment of pesticide practices at UConn's research farm. My remarks below are focused on UConn.

I have written about UConn since the 1980s, for *Connecticut Magazine* and *Northeast*. I broke the widely-cited story of UConn's pumping the Fenton River dry ("Dry Times for UConn," 9/18/2005, and earlier this month published an op/ed, "Bottoms Up: UConn's Unrelenting Thirst For Water."

Most people, including I imagine many state legislators, are unaware of the extent to which UConn operates outside the existing law and with what little transparency and accountability. The university's hubris is expressed in the current plan for importing water from the Farmington River Valley through the MDC to feed the water-poor Storrs campus. Such an inter-basin transfer is by its nature a regional; yet the EIE put forward by UConn treated it as falling within UConn's domain.

In my view, (1) The EIE should be thrown out, as inappropriate for the scale of the proposed project; (2) UConn should be subjected to oversight appropriate to its role as a water supplier; and (3) in the longer term, Connecticut should institute regional planning aimed at protecting the state's water supply from schemes exactly like UConn's, whether driven by private or public entities.

UConn's planned growth at its Storrs campus is out of control and driven by ambitions inimical to wise planning that respects the environment. A more decentralized approach, tying together of the branch campuses and other universities around the STEM theme, could promote more symbiosis and the matrix of the stronger transportation network our state needs and, with it, job-creation.

In any case, these bills can help bring balance and accountability.

Thank you.

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