



January 13, 2020

Dear First Selectman, First Selectwoman, Mayor, Town Council Chair/s –

We are a coalition of Connecticut citizens (tax payers), grass roots advocates and non-profit organizations working together to build a healthier state by responsibly protecting its natural assets.

We are writing to ask that you consider joining our statewide effort to repeal Connecticut's current law on Pesticide Preemption – a law that prohibits municipalities from enacting their own regulations regarding the use and types of pesticides -- by signing on to the growing list of towns/cities and statewide supporters.

Pesticides include a broad range of chemicals used to eradicate both pests and plants. We believe that pesticide preemption (Chapter 441 of the General Statutes) 1) unfairly limits the power of towns and cities, and 2) creates a barrier for communities that wish to restrict the use of unnecessary and harmful chemicals that endanger people and pollute rivers, lakes and soil.

Many attempts have been made at the state level to reverse this preemption policy, but never before has there been a statewide coalition working together to push for it. Right now only the DEEP Commissioner has the authority to regulate. We invite you to join this coalition so your town/city can develop and enact its own policies that improve upon what DEEP requires.

Please let us know if you agree with any of the following principles:

1. Municipalities should not be preempted from developing their own pesticide policies that may be more restrictive than DEEP policies.
2. DEEP must digitize the pesticide registration system and make it online accessible to the public. Maintaining records in an orderly fashion is critical to any system, especially one that directly impacts people and property.
3. DEEP must establish a new framework for regulating pesticides going forward. A best practices model would defer questions of safety to the most respected scientific body, the World Health Organization's IARC (International Agency on Research for Cancer), the agency whose sole mission is to assess cancer risk. IARC analyzes cancer research to make determinations about the relative safety of various substances. When IARC determines that a substance is a "known or suspected human carcinogen" that is an extremely high threshold, met only if studies confirm this conclusion beyond a reasonable doubt. When science is irrefutable, it should guide our public policy. And when a pesticide causes cancer in people it should be regulated.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal to empower municipalities to protect their own residents and natural resources. We hope to earn your support and show the General Assembly that this is what the people of Connecticut support.

If you would like your town/city to be counted in the growing list of supporters for the above principles please email me back at byo@byoct.org and if possible, attach the seal of your Town/City.

Respectfully,
Jeanine Behr Getz
Founder, BYOCT - www.byoct.org

COALITION OF SUPPORTERS (in formation) FOR:
Statewide effort to repeal Connecticut's current law on Pesticide Preemption



Washington Environmental Council

