MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Prohibit the Use of Residential Automatic Pesticide Misting Systems

SB 104- An Act Prohibiting the use of Residential Automatic Pesticide Misting Systems

BACKGROUND

Automatic pesticide misters have grown in popularity for controlling pests on residential property. These devices spray a fine mist to kill or ward off mosquitoes, ticks and other insects, and often use pyrethrin or permethrin, which are highly toxic to fish and aquatic invertebrates and have been shown to cause liver and kidney damage in laboratory mice. Misting systems can be set to turn on at preset intervals using a timer, while others may be activated using a switch or remote control. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not currently regulate these products, and many homeowners simply set their misters to spray chemical pesticides on a continuous stream, potentially exposing neighbors, waterways and non-target species in the process.

There is substantial scientific evidence indicating that certain pesticides are a significant contributor to the unprecedented decline in pollinator health being observed across our state and the United States. Chemical pesticides can persist in soil for months, and in some circumstances, even years after being applied. Additionally, since pyrethrins and permethrin are toxic to all insects, they may also pose a threat to pollinators such as honeybees, butterflies and other non-target species.

SUMMARY

SB 104 was voted out of the CGA Environment committee having been amended to require that any automatic pesticide mister system be installed with a minimum 20 foot setback from the property line. The amended bill is significantly weaker than the original prohibition of these unwieldy devices on residential property initially proposed by the committee. We believe this version falls short on providing meaningful protections for public health and our environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- In order to ensure adequate protection from unwanted pesticide drift onto abutting properties, the CT General Assembly should amend this legislation to require a minimum 100 foot setback from the property line.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS SB 104 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF RESIDENTIAL AUTOMATIC PESTICIDE MISTERS

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.

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