Memorandum of Support
Improving Pesticide Registry Documentation

SB 292 - AAC Electronic Documents and Pesticide Regulation in the State (CONDITIONALLY SUPPORT)

BACKGROUND
According to a 2017 report by the CT Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), inspections and enforcement for pesticide use in Connecticut have fallen to a 15-year low. This has impeded the DEEP pesticide program’s ability to effectively monitor the use of toxic pesticides across the state, to analyze available data, and enforce state regulations when violations occur.

JUSTIFICATION
SB 292 represents a fraction of what must be done in order to improve access to data and enforcement of Connecticut’s pesticide regulations. The current system is onerous and requires hours of sifting through paper documents to find relevant pesticide use information. SB 292 would require any applications submitted to the pesticide program to be entered into an electronic spreadsheet for future reference. This would require hours of data entry on the part of DEEP staff, which is cost-prohibitive and could be avoided by transitioning to an electronic system for pesticide applicator certifications. DEEP needs a dedicated funding stream for pesticide enforcement in order to modernize its pesticide program.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

- Create a dedicated pesticide program fund—funded through pesticide registrations and product certification fees, in addition to Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) funds paid by violators—to cover the costs of regulating pesticides, including record keeping, inspections and enforcement;

- Establish an electronic filing system for applicator certifications and product registration;

- Reinstate the environmental monitoring program to monitor the presence of pesticides in our soil & water resources and wildlife; and

- Address on-line purchasing loopholes for restricted-use pesticides and products not approved for use in CT.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS SB 292- IMPROVING PESTICIDE REGISTRY DOCUMENTATION, WITH RECOMMENDED CHANGES

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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