



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **HB 7003**
AN ACT CONCERNING A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF RECYCLED TIRE RUBBER AT
MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

February 6th, 2019

To: Honorable Chairs Sen. Abrams and Rep. Linehan and Distinguished Members of the
Committee on Children

From: Lori Brown, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT of HB 7003**, An Act Concerning a
Moratorium on the Use of Recycled Tire Rubber at Municipal and Public School Playgrounds.

We cannot ignore the threat rubber mulch poses to our children. **A growing body of research indicates the presence of carcinogens and harmful toxins in this recycled rubber mulch.** According to the EPA, it contains benzene, mercury, arsenic, heavy metals, and carcinogens like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Children can come into contact with these toxins through ingestion, prolonged touch, and even inhalation, as studies have found many of the chemicals become airborne at of 77 °F. According to the EPA, breathing air contaminated with PAHs may increase the risks of cancer, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) states that PAHs may also increase the chances of birth defects.

Because of these potential health risks, the EPA in collaboration with the CDC, has commissioned an in-depth study on the effects of rubber mulch. In lieu of the report, **Connecticut must take steps to preemptively protect its children**, who could be vulnerable to contamination from rubber mulch playgrounds. This bill, which proposes a moratorium on new rubber mulch playgrounds until the report is released, is the smart, safe choice.

The municipalities of Westport and Hartford have banned artificial turf, which utilizes crumb rubber, a material closely linked to rubber mulch. They understood the potential risks — and took steps to protect their residents. All of Connecticut should follow suit.

Thank you for considering this testimony as you deliberate on HB 7003.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Brown".

Lori Brown
Executive Director
CTLCV

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