



TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT of HB 5300**
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE INSTALLATION OF RECYCLED TIRE
RUBBER AT MUNICIPAL AND PUBLIC SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

February 28, 2020

To: Honored Chairs Sen. Cassano and Rep. McCarthy Vahey and Distinguished Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Lori Brown, Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

On behalf of the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony **IN SUPPORT of HB 5300** to restrict the use of tire rubber on playgrounds across the state.

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, tire mulch 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 77°F. The EPA affirms that breathing air contaminated with PAHs may increase the risks of cancer. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry states that PAHs may also increase the chances of birth defects.

Because of these potential health risks, the EPA in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control has commissioned an in-depth study on the effects of rubber mulch. However, **Connecticut must take steps NOW to preemptively protect our children**, and not wait for another study. The smart, safe choice is to enact a moratorium on new rubber mulch playgrounds until the report is released.

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.

CTLCV urges the committee to **SUPPORT HB 5300** to restrict the use of tire rubber on municipal and public school playgrounds. Thank you for your consideration as you deliberate on this bill.

Sincerely,

Lori Brown
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