

Date

Dear (name of person in charge of municipal or school grounds mgt):

I am writing this letter today because of my deep concern about the amount of lawn pesticides being used in (name of your community or school district). The health risks associated with pesticide exposure are well documented (see attached information), including an increased risk of several types of cancer, asthma, birth defects and neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease. I've included for your review some well substantiated information on the potential health problems associated with low-dose pesticide exposure – the kind of small exposures we get when we smell pesticides in the air while walking by, or when our kids and dogs play on treated lawns and playing fields and then put their hands or paws in their mouths.

It is very important to know that children and animals are at a much higher risk of ingesting lawn chemicals because of their smaller size (and closer proximity to the ground), higher respiration rates, and higher hand-to-mouth activity. A child's immature immune system is not equipped to process these chemicals as efficiently as an adult's, which leaves them more vulnerable to pesticide-related ailments. The latest research has shown that even minute levels of pesticide exposure can act as a trigger for disease, especially in those who are genetically more predisposed to certain illnesses than others.

The good news is that eliminating pesticide use does not mean we must sacrifice our community's aesthetic or the quality of our playing fields. Natural turf management at both the municipal and school district level has been done successfully in Canada and the United States for several years now. In fact, the number of communities committing to pesticide-free turf management is growing every day.

I ask that you take a few moments to review the attached resources as objectively as possible. Once again, please know that I raise this issue out of concern and a desire to protect my family, neighbors and the environment from harm. I also want you to know that I will assist such an effort in any way I can. I look forward to the chance to discuss this with you. I will contact you in the next few days or you may contact me at (your phone # here) at any time. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(name here)

For more information please visit the following websites:

www.beyondpesticides.org

www.safelawns.org

www.healthycommunitiesproject.org (Milwaukee area)

www.grassrootsinfo.org

www.saferpestcontrolproject.org (Chicago area)