



MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Establishing a Moratorium on Crumb Rubber Surfaces on Public Property

HB 7003- An Act Establishing a Moratorium on the use of Recycled Tire Rubber at Municipal and Public School Playgrounds

BACKGROUND

Crumb rubber is a term for shredded tire rubber used in manufacturing rubber surfacing, rubber mulch, and other infills commonly used on school and public playgrounds and athletic fields. This material is made from scrap tires, which are manufactured using an array of toxic chemicals, including certain heavy metals and known human carcinogens. The Empire State Consumer Project examined several samples of crumb rubber and rubber mulch as part of its 2015 Children's Products Safety Report, and identified high levels of arsenic and cadmium in that rubber, among other chemicals of concern.

JUSTIFICATION

Children are disproportionately at risk to the adverse health effects associated with these toxins due to their small size, rapidly growing bodies, and developing immune systems. While more research is needed to fully understand the impacts that long-term exposure to these materials can have on children's health, available science indicates that there is a significant cause for concern, and that the use of crumb rubber around developing children should be avoided wherever possible.

In response to the emerging health and safety concerns related to crumb rubber, localities across the U.S. and around the world have taken action by prohibiting the use of crumb rubber, including Sweden, the NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation, the City of Hartford and the town of Westport, CT. Based on the growing body of available science, it is clear that artificial turf fields and playground surfacing made with crumb rubber pose an undue risk to the health of small children, and should be avoided wherever possible.

This legislation establishes a moratorium on the use of recycled tire rubber on athletic fields and protective ground covers within any public parks or public school property, pending the findings of the Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb. While a moratorium is a good first step, the current available science clearly demonstrates that crumb rubber poses an undue risk to the health of small children and should be avoided wherever possible, and therefore, CCE recommends that the legislation be strengthened by implementing a full ban on crumb rubber on athletic fields, public parks, and public school property now.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS HB 7003- ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON CRUMB RUBBER SURFACES ON MUNICIPAL & PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY

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.