

January 21, 2026

Testimony in support of H7141: Artificial Turf - Chain of Custody

To Chair Bennett and honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

Having spoken in front of this esteemed body for years, in efforts to minimize plastic waste including furthering the now-State's Plastic Bag Ban, as well as supporting a myriad of other environmental efforts, I am compelled to write in support of H7141, as it is urgently needed.

I spent the better part of last year working to oppose efforts to replace Barrington High School's Victory Field with artificial turf for a number of reasons, not the least of which was an overwhelming vote opposing artificial turf anywhere in town by Barrington voters in November, 2024. Unfortunately it was a failed effort, as the Barrington School Committee was determined to spend the bulk of its Reserve Fund on what is known in the environmental community as 'plastic paving'... in a flood zone no less.

Artificial turf is a quick, short term and costly fix to expanding field space, with no long term accountability or thoughtful consideration of consequences to the health of its users or to the environment.

It seems prudent in this age where plastic is literally replacing the earth, that we at least follow its life cycle and make known where it is either disposed of, or melted down, which is what the plastics industry falsely calls 'recycling'.

The beginning and the end of all plastic life cycles are the most toxic. There are only 2 endings for artificial turf. Either it is disposed of in hidden wetlands, in forests, on abandoned properties, in the ocean, in an aging landfill or worse, melted into a concentrated toxic sludge while toxic gases belch into the atmosphere, exacerbating our climate crisis.

I urge you to support a bill that will keep eyes on the problem, from beginning to end, so that we can be assured there is accountability from the producers, installers and disposals of artificial turf.

Please support H7141, especially as there is no need for further study. It is by its very nature, further study.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this vital matter.

Sincerely,
Kate Weymouth