

Testimony in support of House Bill 7141, House Environment Committee January 22, 2026.

On Behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island by Peter Trafton, Providence Rhode Island

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

Last year the Environment Council of Rhode Island supported this bill by Rep. Boylan, then numbered 5340. This year we will support it again as 7141, for the same reasons and concerns.

We believe that it is important to require producers of artificial turf and infill to maintain chain-of-custody records from installation through disposal. Artificial turf contains “forever chemicals” which threaten to injure not only those who play on them, but everyone else down the line who encounters the waste and these agents as the turf decomposes. Artificial turf has a legendary history of improper disposal once its playing days are over. This bill would encourage proper disposal and is consistent with the importance of the public being aware of a variety of health threats to athletes and other users, and anyone who is downstream of water that drains through this ersatz turf.

To be consistent with Rhode Island’s laws related to reducing exposure to PFAS and other forever chemicals, it is essential that we monitor artificial turf and protect those exposed to the material itself as well as its drainage.

I am familiar with the stories of such materials having been used in Barrington, Rhode Island, without appropriate notification of parents and athletes. Our grandsons live there, and we want to see that every possible measure is made to protect them.

Please support 7141 to reduce the burden of poisonous chemical waste.

Thank you for considering my comments, offered on behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PG Trafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "PG" being more compact and the last name "Trafton" being more spread out.

Peter G. Trafton, M.D.