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To: House Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Subject: H7141

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Dear members of House Environmental and Natural Resources-
I would like you to please read and consider my opinion in regards to your proposed bill.
I will not be able to attend the hearing, but I would like to make my voice heard.

I 100% support this bill.

My name is Pia Mueller, and I am a full time resident of Burrillville, RI for the past 4 years.
I experienced first hand, how 'non transparent' information about artificial turf, it's components, maintenance and ultimate disposal is being dealt with in towns like the one I live in now.

Turf companies have their own 'data', testing, with testing limits that seem to exceed far over what can be detected- so those results have to be taken with a grain of salt- or a whole bag.

When questions were asked how turf would be able to be recycled- especially after the EPA last year deemed artificial turf a 'hazardous material'- most landfills immediately said they would not take it any more.

There are reports of farmers being paid for 'storing' old discarded artificial turf on their property- well, if you look what hazardous materials are in artificial turf, beyond PFAS, but also 6 PQuinone in the tire waste and more, that is an environmental disaster.

Given the fact that of course the turf companies hire 'advocates' and 'experts' to basically give the same report (this is known of FieldTurf) to towns, not really giving the 'whole picture'. but still maintaining that their turf can be recycled or does not contain PFAS is simply not true.

One of the big questions is- who knows what is really in this turf?

I have no problem saying that I went to the field, which was laid over our last healthy aquifer while there were still pending appeals in the courts, by the way.
I went every single day, as I wanted to see what was going on.

I saw silica dust being blown around, and 2 different kinds of infill.
Why 2 different kinds of infill? I documented it all.

One infill was dense, the other was not. Where did that come from? What is it?

So what do we, as residents, know what is really going down- and what do we know how it can be 'recycled' or discarded- if there are no resources or records of where these discarded artificial turf fields really go? And public record requests go unanswered? Or denied?

Who is going to take towns, stadiums, turf companies accountable to do the right thing?

There seems to be nothing in place right now, which is scary-
so I am in total support of this bill.

Turf companies seem to put advocates into place, especially now that there will be a ban on artificial turf in 2029, to spread their 'truths' to customers.

This is a multi billion business of course-
but it needs to be stopped, regulated and supervised.

Thank you for your time-
Pia Mueller
Burrillville