

TOWNSHIP OF _____

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW JERSEY LEGISLATION “SAFE PLAYING FIELDS ACT” (S1143 / A2412), URGING LEGISLATORS TO PASS THIS BILL PROHIBITING USE OF TOXIC SYNTHETIC LAWN PESTICIDES WHERE CHILDREN PLAY ON SCHOOL GROUNDS K – 8TH GRADE, CHILD CARE CENTERS, AND PARK PLAYGROUNDS

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Township Council or Environmental Commission of the Township of _____ to promote matters which benefit the health, welfare, comfort and safety of the citizens of the community, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Senate Bill S 1143/Assembly Bill A 2412, to be known as the “Safe Playing Fields Act,” would prohibit the use of synthetic lawn care pesticides on the grounds of any child care center, any school which enrolls children in kindergarten, and any grade between 1st through 8th grade, as well as on playgrounds in public parks, except as an emergency response to an immediate threat to human health, as determined by school officials, in consultation with the local health officer, as appropriate, and

WHEREAS, many scientific studies indicate that synthetic lawn pesticides threaten children’s health by increasing the risk of cancer, learning disabilities, asthma, birth defects, and reproductive problems and the US EPA, the Federal Trade Commission and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection **prohibit claims as to the safety of a pesticide** or its ingredients even if used as directed, and

WHEREAS, **children face higher risks than adults from lawn chemical exposure** due to their small size, engaging in activities on or near the ground, tendency to place their hands close to their face, greater intake of air relative to body weight, and developing hormonal and organ systems, and

WHEREAS, this bill has been a priority of many environmental groups, children’s health advocates, school advocates, and parents who are concerned that children are more vulnerable to exposure to synthetic pesticides, and

WHEREAS, this bill follows the lead other states have taken in banning synthetic pesticides on the grounds of schools, except under emergency conditions. These states are successfully maintaining their fields and playgrounds using non-toxic, natural methods. And NJ Congressman Rush Holt recently introduced federal legislation, School Environmental Protection Act, that would prohibit synthetic pesticides on school grounds and require organic fertilizers on school grounds, and

WHEREAS, with the proper training, equipment and budget for organic fertilizer and seed, schools can maintain their fields and grounds effectively and naturally without chemicals. Experts testify that the costs of organic field care can match a conventional field care program and save schools money over time as fields require less product input and become sustainable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Council or Environmental Commission of the Township of _____ supports the passage of the Safe Playing Fields Act (A2412 / S1143), and urges the legislative leadership to ensure this bill becomes law before the New Year 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie; to Senate President Stephen Sweeney; to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver; to our Legislative District Legislators Senator _____; Assemblyman/woman _____ and Assemblyman/woman _____; to the State Senate Environment Committee Chair Senator Bob Smith; to the State Assembly Environment Committee Chair Assemblywoman Grace Spencer; to the senate bill primary sponsors Senators Shirley Turner and Robert Gordon; to the assembly bill primary sponsors Assemblywoman Connie Wagner and Assemblymen Daniel Benson; to the _____ Township School Board; to the New Jersey League of Municipalities; to the other _____ County municipalities; to the New Jersey Environmental Federation (jvickers@cleanwater.org); to the Northern NJ Safe Yards Alliance (Suzanne@NorthernNJSafeYardsAlliance.org)