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From: drmcclroy maineintegrative.com <drmcclroy@maineintegrative.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 8:29 AM
To: Cmte ENR
Subject: Written testimony in support to LD 1177

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

I am writing to voice my support for bill LD 1177, Establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation or Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf. As a physician, I have several levels of concern regarding artificial turf fields. I recently performed an extensive literature review in preparation for speaking before the MSAD 51 School Board when it was considering its own artificial turf project. Current scientific evidence in the sports medicine literature is mixed, but the overall consensus is that injury rates increase for athletes of all ages and skill levels when playing on artificial turf. Several collegiate and professional athletic organizations have come out in opposition to artificial turf.

I am also deeply concerned about toxic chemical exposure. Here the science is much clearer. Many different types of harmful chemicals are released during the manufacturing process. They create an environmental hazard during installation as some of these chemicals leach into the surrounding soil, water, and air. Athletes and other users are then exposed to these chemicals during routine use. Many of these athletes are children, still in the early stages of development when they are especially prone to chemicals that may cause cancer and disrupt hormonal activity.

I understand the opposition's arguments that athletic turf fields provide more reliable opportunities for sports, and that this increased exercise is healthy and beneficial for our children. However, given all of the known hazards of toxic chemical exposure, a logical risk-benefit analysis clearly demonstrates that artificial turf fields are more harmful than helpful.

In short, artificial turf fields are bad for Mainers and should be permanently banned.

Thank you again for your hard work in helping to protect our state.

Be Well,

Sean McCloy, MD, MPH, MA

Medical Director

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