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Career
Sebasco Harbor Resort 1993-1996
Master Pesticide License since 1996
The Woodlands Club 1996-2010
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I am writing this to voice my objection to the new Falmouth Ordinance. I find the fact that private homeowners are targeted while public athletic fields and golf courses are exempt to be highly hypocritical.

We are using lawn products in fractions of an ounce over an entire lawn one to two times a season. The input to the ecosystem is incredibly small. These products are formulated to stay in place and then break down into inert compounds. They are incredibly safe.

All the data I've seen finding these products in the watershed has never traced it back to the private lawn in Falmouth. Do agricultural areas show a higher trace of these chemicals. If so, why is the homeowner being targeted. Are positive tests popping up after certain rain events only. The data is incomplete.

If the same products are being used on exempt turf areas, by professional applicators, how will this protect the environment by targeting the homeowner with this ordinance. You will now create a new issue where the homeowner will do treatments themselves. Over-application and misapplications will now be the new norm.

Professional applicators take their job very seriously and use precise applications based on lawn conditions and weather patterns which are constantly changing. By banning all products except grub control and limiting fertilizer visits to two times per season, you are taking away our ability to adjust to these changing conditions. Lawns will decline, creating new issues that can't be properly addressed under this ordinance in a timely fashion. I specialize in lawn restoration and need the ability to utilize certain fertilizers at certain times during the season to bring back a lawn.

Crabgrass, weeds, and turf wear will create thin or bare areas throughout the lawn. This is what I've been dealing with in South Portland and Portland the past several years. These ordinances do not work the way they are intended to. Using the "precautionary principle" to ban something based on incomplete data, just creates a new precedent where any issue can now be targeted.

Please consider tabling this ordinance and letting the professionals do the job they are trained to do.