

**William B. Sawch  
Lyons Plain Rd  
Weston, CT 06883**

Co-Chairs of the Environment Committee  
Room 3200  
Legislative Office Building  
Harford, CT 06106

**Re: Support HB#5852 An Act to Control Lyme Disease**

Dear Senator Meyer and Representative Roy;

I'm writing in connection with Connecticut's dubious distinction as the world's Lyme disease capital. Having lived in the State my entire life, I am both amazed and depressed at how this disease and its related effects have slowly encroached on our quality of life. I drafted the attached personal perspective with hopes of crystallizing a needless tragedy affecting a good portion of Connecticut's residents.

My personal feeling is that Lyme disease, together with other deer related issues, is a tragic and needless consequence of special interests obscuring the broader best interests of the silent majority. To me, this is an issue that uniquely calls out for government to finally address root causes rather than deferring to special interests or miring in symptoms.

As far as what needs to be done, I think it's actually quite simple. Government has to lead the effort of honestly assessing Lyme and other deer-related issues/solutions without bias or emotion. One would think this uncontroversial, given that most informed sources now acknowledge that, between Lyme, auto accidents, and environmental damage, deer are the most harmful/dangerous species in our country's history. The fact that some animal rights activists may attach human qualities of beauty or innocence should not be allowed to interrupt the mission of honestly assessing issues and solutions.

The alternative of not doing anything or allowing confusion and distraction to preempt science and empirical evidence of the deer/Lyme correlation is a crime to the extent it sentences Connecticut's residents to lives in fear of the natural outdoors that once were the pride of the State. I urge you to demonstrate the purpose for which you were elected and represent the silent majority's best interests.

Sincerely,

William Sawch  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel  
Applera Corporation

## **Deer in Connecticut - A Personal Account**

Having lived in the Westport/Weston area of Connecticut my entire 53 years, I have witnessed amazing changes to how people interact with our natural environment. I grew up on the edge of woods, with a creek and pond in our backyard, where I never saw a single deer until I was about 15 years old. Ticks and Lyme disease weren't issues, and Connecticut's woods, fields, and lawns provided a safe playground for me and all the neighborhood kids. We embraced the outdoors and learned to love and appreciate nature through experience.

Fast-forward to today, when area kids and adults fear the outdoors due to ticks and Lyme. We're taught to avoid nature for all but cold winter months and, when we do brave the outdoors, to spray ourselves with insecticides, wear hermetically-sealed white clothing from head to toe, conduct incessant fully body searches for pinhead-sized ticks, and keep our pets indoors. We're advised to miraculously change Connecticut's natural environment and seal off our signature stonewalls, eliminate shady areas, cut down fields, remove leaves/litter/brush/weeds/woodpiles (to where?), and border our property with high fences and/or unnatural boundaries of chips, gravel, or pavement. We regularly apply vast amounts of poisons to our properties in hopes of deterring ticks, doing damage to our groundwater and environment that only the future will show.

We've effectively been quarantined from many of our most valued resources, and we now fear what we should love and enjoy. Lyme has grown to characterize Connecticut as it has devastated countless thousands and caused many to move from the State. It significantly detracts from the lifestyle that once drew most to Connecticut. Property values and quality of life have been affected for everyone. The sad legacy of this for Connecticut will be a generation that shuns nature and animals.

Perhaps we've tolerated these changes because they've been gradual and diffused, but a broad perspective shows them to be unacceptably dramatic and horrific. If the changes had occurred suddenly, all of society would have stood up and said "NO". If one or more humans had inflicted these changes on society, they'd be incarcerated. But 30-40 years of passivity have allowed the changes to control us.

Others may minimize or candy-coat the changes to Connecticut, but I consider it a tragedy. I consider it a tragedy that government has done little about honestly looking at causes and has allowed the issue to be distracted and ignored over time. Even for those who believe in limited government, this is a perfect example where our leaders should be addressing the health and welfare of the majority and not allowing special interests to confuse or defer needed State-wide policy and action. Lyme and deer weren't issues when I was a child, and they need not be now.

William Sawch  
Weston CT