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Lone Star Chapter

**SB 468: <sup>3</sup> Sierra Club opposes Section 13 of the bill, which repeals the requirement that public schools have Integrated Pest Management Programs.**

Sierra Club believes that giving more flexibility to schools in how they run their pest management programs could actually lead to more children being exposed to dangerous pesticides, and would not necessarily save schools money. Schools would still need to have policies on pests and pest management, still need to use licensed pesticide applicators and still need to purchase pest management tools. In fact, we believe that the requirement for an integrated pest management program at public schools has saved money, as schools have identified preventative tools and reduced the amount of expensive chemicals used to treat pests. In fact, a 2005 Texas survey of over 500 IPM coordinators found that the majority of the operators reported that the IPM programs had actually reduced the total amount of money used for pest management, despite the increased training and labor costs. Only 18% of the operators felt it had increased costs.

Because of the inclusion of the repeal of the required integrated pest management programs, Sierra Club opposes the bill in its present form. We are happy to work with Senator Shapiro to come up with alternative language to give schools flexibility, but believe that as a matter of good public policy, schools should be required to run integrated pest management programs.

For More Information: Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club  
512-740-4086  
[cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org](mailto:cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org)

PO Box 1931, Austin, TX 78767

tel: (512) 477-1729

fax: (512) 477-8526

[lonestar.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:lonestar.chapter@sierraclub.org)



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