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Date: 07/14/2020 03:24 PM
Subject: Comment in opposition to synthetic turf at AHS

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Dear Emily,

Please accept my comment below for the continued hearing on 7/16 for the NOI for artificial turf at AHS.

As a parent of a child attending Arlington public schools, I want to voice my strong opposition to synthetic pitch at the High School.

I oppose synthetic pitch on the grounds that I believe it is 1) bad for our children, and 2) bad for the environment.

1) Bad for our children:

Most artificial turf is made with old tires. Artificial turfs like these may contain various metals such as cadmium, chromium, zinc, aluminium and lead; oils containing various chemicals including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) such as benzo (a and e) pyrenes, benzo (a) anthracene as well as phthalates. Several of these are known or suspect carcinogens, neurotoxins and potential endocrine disruptors.

These synthetic fields have been implicated in causing cancer in adolescents and young adults who use them, particularly lymphoma and primarily in soccer goalkeepers. This concern has led to the initiation of large-scale studies by local and federal governments that are expected to take years to complete. Our children should not be part of such a risk experiment.

Finally, artificial turf contributes to more injuries - particularly concussions.

2) bad for the environment

Artificial turf means lost habitat for insects - particularly important pollinators.

The runoff may contaminate nearby waterways (the Mill brook).

Finally, artificial turf contributes to climate change. It gets hotter than natural turf, and does not capture carbon the way natural turf does. **I feel it is important that we do whatever we can in our public projects to mitigate the effects of climate change.** Replacing grass with artificial turf does the opposite.

Sincerely,

Joshua Shalem