

Cuyahoga County Council approves anti-pesticide legislation

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Joshua Gunter, Plain Dealer file photoCuyahoga County Council in a file photo.

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Cuyahoga County Council has limited the use of **chemical pesticides** and weedkillers on county property.

The restrictions -- which Council passed Tuesday -- will apply to the county's 66 buildings, their lawns and the wide swaths of open space at Whiskey Island and the Cuyahoga County Airport.

Rich Kozlovich of Pest Management Inc. protested the legislation.

"While it is true that pesticides are toxic, that is the purpose behind pesticides, whether they are from organic sources or produced in a lab, to kill vermin and pests, and if used properly present no hazard to society or the environment,"he said.

Council member Jack Schron, a Republican, asked that the vote be postponed. He later cast the lone dissenting vote.

Responding to Schron, Democratic Councilwoman Sunny Simon said: "These concerns brought forward were from the industry...someone that makes money off chemicals. The concerns brought up today in the ninth inning have all been addressed."

The council also approved a partnership with the Cleveland arm of Emerald Cities, a Washington, D.C.-based group that promotes environmentally friendly initiatives, to make county and municipal buildings more efficient.