

January 15, 2010

Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

It is truly disheartening when political agendas attempt to overturn scientific process. Such is the case in the January 5th letter submitted to the EPA by a handful of special interest groups misrepresenting themselves as the voice of the agriculture community in an attempt to negate the overwhelming support and confidence in the herbicide atrazine and to gain media attention for themselves.

Our growers have actively participated in the process and supported the safety and scientific approval of atrazine by the EPA over the last fifteen years and three White House Administrations. Mainstream agriculture has participated in every Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) concerning atrazine since the beginning of the Special Review in 1994. As stated clearly to the November 3, 2009 SAP, we strongly believe the scientific weight of evidence, based on EPA's own analysis for decades, shows atrazine to be both safe and effective and that it is the best kind of tool that farmers can have.

We are troubled by the activist forces that seem to be guiding the very intensive and urgent re-evaluation (actually a re-re-evaluation) of atrazine despite its recently completed re-registration, which provided for its continued safe use.

Last week's media event showcasing a small number of farmers affiliated with the Land Stewardship Project and Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA) seem to be the latest tactic in a campaign to unnecessarily remove a critical tool from the toolbox of farmers around the country.

The benefits of atrazine use to agriculture are well documented and part of existing EPA record. Recent efforts to downplay these benefits in the media are simply the wishes of activists who suggest they have better insight on producing abundant food, fuel, horticultural crops, and fiber from their comfortable desk than the farmer who has been doing it all his life. It should be noted that our farmers consider themselves the ultimate conservationists, for without the careful cultivation of their land...their own livelihoods are at risk.

We hope that the PANNA/Land Stewardship Project "report" will be recognized for the unfounded political attack that it is and that sound science, not agenda-driven politics, will continue to guide any further review of atrazine.

Both you and President Obama have assured all Americans that sound science will drive this Administration's decisions. We welcome that and will continue to engage this process to its completion.

Sincerely,

National Corn Growers Association
632 Cepi Drive,
Chesterfield, MO 63005

National Sorghum Producers
4201 N. Interstate 27
Lubbock, TX 79403

American Agri-Women
2103 Zeandale Road
Manhattan, KS 66502

Minnesota Corn Growers Association
738 First Ave E.
Shakopee, MN 55379

California Citrus Mutual
512 North Kaweah Avenue
Exeter, CA 93221-1200

Missouri Corn Growers Association
3702 West Truman Boulevard
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Illinois Corn Growers Association
14129 Carole Drive
Bloomington, IL 61705-6329

South Dakota Corn Growers Association
5109 South Crossing Place, Suite 1
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board
301 Centennial Mall S
Lincoln, NE 68508-2529

Texas Grain Sorghum Association
P.O. Box 905
Salado, Texas 76571

Oregonians for Food & Shelter
3415 Commercial Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97302-4668

Georgia Agribusiness Council
Post Office Box 119
Commerce, Georgia 30529

Nebraska Corn Growers Association
1327 H Street Suite 305
Lincoln, NE 68508

Michigan Corn Growers Association
13750 Sedona Parkway, Suite 5
Lansing, MI 48906

Nebraska Grain Sorghum Producers
301 Centennial Mall S
Lincoln, NE 68508-2529

Kansas Corn Growers Association
PO Box 446
Garnett, KS 66032

Hawaii Agriculture Research Center
99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite 300
Aiea, HI 96701-3911

American Sugarcane League
PO Drawer 938,
Thibodaux, LA 70302

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
P.O. Box 948153
Maitland, FL 32794-8153

California Grape & Tree Fruit League
978 W. Alluvial, Suite 107
Fresno, CA 93711

Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
408 St. Peter Street - Suite 20
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
W1360 Highway 106
Palmyra, WI 53156

Iowa Farm Bureau Federation
5400 University Ave.
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
816 Southwest Tyler Street
Topeka, KS 66612-1635

Washington Friends of Farms and Forests
PO Box 7644
Olympia, WA 98507

Ohio Corn Growers Association
59 Greif Parkway Suite 101
Delaware, Ohio 43015

Texas Citrus Mutual
901 Business Park Dr # 400
Mission, TX 78572-6064

Kansas Farm Bureau
2627 KFB Plaza
Manhattan, Kansas 66503

Mon-Clair Corn Growers
PO Box 129
Waterloo, IL 62298

Colorado Corn Growers Association
127 22nd Street
Greeley, CO 80631

Iowa Corn Growers Association
5505 Northwest 88th Street
Johnston, IA 50131-2948

Environmental Resources Coalition
3118 Emerald Lane
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Penn-Ag Industries
2215 Forest Hills Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Agricultural Retailers Association
1156 15th Street, NW Suite 302
Washington, DC 20005

Pennsylvania Energy Resources Group
200 N. Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Michigan Agri-Business Association
1501 North Shore Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823-7622

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
7500 Flying Cloud Drive, Suite 900
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
P.O. Box 1326
Bloomington, IL 61701-1326

Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers
PO Box 446
Garnett, KS 66032

Michigan Bean Shippers Association
1501 North Shore Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823-7622

Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
400 Robert Street North, Suite 1500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2098

Western Growers Association
1415 L Street, Suite 1060
Sacramento, CA 95814

Missouri Agribusiness Association
P.O. Box 1728,
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Maryland Grain Producers Association
53 Slama Road
Edgewater MD 21037

Texas Corn Producers Board &
Corn Producers Association of Texas
4205 N. I-27
Lubbock, Texas 79403

California Association of Nurseries &
Garden Centers
3947 Lennane Drive, Suite 150
Sacramento CA 95834

Michigan Farm Bureau
P.O. 30960
Lansing, MI 48909-8460

Kentucky Corn Growers Association
PO Box 90
Eastwood, KY 40018

Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative Of Florida
P.O. Box 666
Belle Glade, Florida

North Dakota Corn Growers Association
1411 32nd St. South Suite 2
Fargo, North Dakota 58103

New York Corn Growers Association
27 Elk St.
Albany NY 12207

Illinois Farm Bureau
1701 Towanda Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61701

Indiana Plant Food & Ag Chemicals Assn.
5246 N Delaware
Indianapolis, IN 46220-3045