

c/o CropLife Canada
21 Four Seasons Place, Suite 627
Etobicoke, ON M9B 6J8

January 9, 2009

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Re: Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act – Draft Regulations [EBR registry #010-5080]

Dear Premier McGuinty:

We, the undersigned, request that the Government of Ontario redraft its proposed regulations for the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act because they do not have scientific criteria as their cornerstone.

We ask that you:

- develop sound scientific criteria and then – once the criteria have been clearly articulated –
- initiate a new round of public consultations that includes an appropriate phase-in period.

We are taking this significant step of speaking with a united voice on this issue because predictable, science-based regulations are fundamental to ensuring continued public and environmental health and safety.

Canadians expect the laws governing the products they use to be based on sound scientific principles. With science-based regulations the public can be confident that the products they value and rely on are being assessed by methods that are widely recognized to provide health, safety and environmental safeguards.

We ask that in developing scientific criteria you explain the following:

- why a specific product can – or cannot - be used or sold in Ontario
- what criteria are desirable in new products so that companies can develop new solutions to common pest problems
- why our home landscapes – grass, trees, shrubs, flowers and vegetable gardens – are defined as cosmetic and not worthy of protection
- how this government plans to keep the door open for new product innovation in Ontario

Without clear scientific criteria, products that help to protect people, crops and property – and which have been assessed as safe for use by Health Canada – are being unfairly stigmatized.

As organizations that rely on proven, safe pest management tools, we need our government to create an environment that allows for continuous innovation to bring newer technologies to market. However, the draft regulations will have a profoundly negative impact on innovation in this province and will impact our ability to provide the high quality food, safe playing surfaces, and well cared for leisure areas Ontarians deserve.

The draft regulations, in their current form, will also impact our ability to protect people, their homes, businesses, and property, and environmentally sensitive areas from current and future pest problems. Without defensible scientific criteria this government cannot assure Ontarians that it will be able to appropriately protect their health and environment.

These draft regulations leave your government vulnerable to new and unwarranted demands for even further restrictions and onerous conditions on other use sectors including agriculture.

Premier McGuinty, the only solution is to redraft these regulations and define and articulate the scientific criteria your government will use to assess current products and future innovations so that Ontarians will have access to the safest and most effective tools to manage legitimate pest problems. We are prepared to work in collaboration with officials to arrive at regulations that will work for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard Blyleven'.

Richard Blyleven
Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dave MacKay'.

Dave MacKay
Executive Director



Brian Chorney
President



Ron Bonnet
2nd Vice President



Anne Fowlie
Executive Vice President



Lorne Hepworth
President



Ross Ravelli
President



Tony DiGiovanni
Executive Director



Dave Battenham
CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian H. Gilroy".

Brian Gilroy
Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Markus Wand".

Markus Wand
Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tino Breuer".

Tino Breuer
General Manager



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Jean Crews".

Betty Jean Crews
President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Vander Heide".

Gary Vander Heide
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Lynn Lister Santavy".

Mary Lynn Lister Santavy
Executive Director



Ted Berdowski
President

Cc Hon. John Gerretsen - Minister of the Environment
Hon. John Wilkinson - Minister of Research and Innovation
Hon. Leona Dombrowsky - Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Hon. Michael Bryant - Minister of Economic Development
John Tory, Leader of the Official Opposition
Robert Bilyea, Ministry of the Environment

Appendix A

AGCare - AGCare, Agricultural Groups Concerned About Resources and the Environment, is a coalition of farm organizations committed to communicating about agriculture and the environment. We are the voice of Ontario's 45,000 crop and horticulture farmers on environmental issues.

CAAR - The Voice of Canadian Agri-Retailers

Canadian Canola Growers Association – The Canadian Canola Growers Association represents all of the provincial canola grower organizations in Canada on national and international issues that affect canola growers.

Canadian Federation of Agriculture – The CFA was formed in 1935 to answer the need for a unified voice to speak on behalf of Canadian farmers. It continues today as a farmer-funded, national umbrella organization representing provincial general farm organizations and national commodity groups. Through its members, it represents over 200,000 Canadian farm families from coast to coast.

Canadian Horticultural Council - The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) is a voluntary, not-for-profit, national association with a long and proud history of representing the dynamic and diverse sector of Canadian agriculture known as horticulture. The CHC has been committed to promoting the interests of its members since 1922. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, the CHC's members are primarily involved in the production and packing of over 120 horticulture crops comprised of fruit and vegetables.

CropLife Canada – CropLife Canada is the trade association that represents the developers, manufacturers and distributors of plant science innovations – pest control products and plant biotechnology – for use in agriculture, urban and public health settings

Grain Growers of Canada - The Grain Growers of Canada is a national organization comprised of major grain and oilseed commodity groups that stretch across the country.

Landscape Ontario - Landscape Ontario represents 10 sectors of the Nursery/landscape and environmental horticulture industry including those that design, install and maintain institutional, commercial, industrial, residential and public green-space, gardens and landscapes as well as those that grow and retail Ontario's trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials. Our tag line is "green for life".

Ontario Agri Business Association - Representing the Crop Input, Grain and Feed Industry

Ontario Apple Growers - The OAG represents all Ontario apple growers with 10 or more acres of apple orchard

Ontario Bean Producer's Marketing Board - The Ontario Bean Producers' Marketing Board (OBPMB) under Ontario's Farm Products Marketing legislation represents the interests of some 1,300 white bean growers in the province. The OBPMB's mission and vision is "Ontario Bean Producers ... Growing a healthy Bean industry through leadership to unleash the inherent natural value of dry beans". It works in such areas as: Research, Communications, Marketing and Promotion as well as collaboration and lobbying for the best interests of dry (common) bean growers in the province.

Ontario Federation of Agriculture - The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is the voice of Ontario's farmers. Supported by approximately 38,000 individual members and 30 affiliated organizations, the OFA represents farm family concerns to governments and the general public.

Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency - The Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency (OSMA) is a producer run and funded organization representing all sheep and lamb producers in Ontario, an estimated 4200 registered farms.

Pesticide Industry Regulatory Council (PIRC), The Pesticide Industry Regulatory Council (PIRC), its affiliated IPM regulatory body, Integrated Pest Management Environmental Health Care Council of Ontario (IPM-EHC Council), and the Ontario Integrated Pest Management Association (OIPMA), represent the aspirations of a majority of Ontario's independent pesticide applicators and operators as well as other participants regulated under the Pesticides Act and its Regulation 914.

Seed Corn Growers of Ontario - The Seed Corn Growers of Ontario (SCGO) represent the province's 500 seed corn growers. For more than 60 years, we have been actively contributing to the growth and competitiveness of seed corn production in Ontario.

Structural Pest Management Association of Ontario - The Structural Pest Management Association of Ontario is the largest and oldest professional structural pest management industry association in Ontario. We are a non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors made up of representatives from member companies. We represent 125 responsible and professional licensed companies that protect the health and safety of the citizens of Ontario through the provision of our services. Our members make a vital contribution to the health and welfare of Ontarians by protecting the food chain. We protect health care and educational facilities, residential dwellings, hotels, restaurants and food processing plants from insects and rodents that may be disease vectors, cause structural damage to homes and buildings and threats to human health.