



July 8, 2002

Mr. Stephen L. Johnson
7101M
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: NEETF Forum__ "National Strategies for Health Care Providers: Pesticides Initiative"

Dear Steve:

We have had an opportunity to review the proposed National Forum program of the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF) for launch of the "National Strategies for Health Care Providers: Pesticides Initiative." Mr. James was a member of the original committee that produced the basis for the "Implementation Plan," from which the Initiative has been developed. As you know, primary funding and leadership for this project has come from EPA, and the Agency is a full partner in the launch, scheduled for September 19 and 20.

We send this letter in good faith, but with serious reservations and objections to certain participants in the program. In particular, we refer to Dr. Lynn Goldman, Dr. Philip Landrigan, and Dr. Richard Jackson. These individuals have demonstrated clear bias against pesticides, especially most recently in public comments and media presentations.

It has been our belief and understanding that the purpose of the initiative is to strengthen knowledge and skills of health care providers in recognizing, diagnosing and managing health issues associated with possible excessive pesticide exposure. Our industry supports this effort.

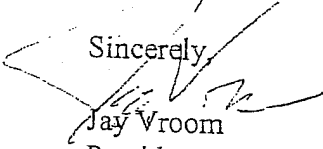
At no time has this initiative been an effort to malign or discourage the use of pesticides. However, the cited individuals have a clear record of such practice, and as such, should not be part of this program. Further review of the program may reveal other individuals with a substantial bias against pesticides; bias not based on science, but agendas, and they, too, should be removed from the program. Likewise, we think it equally inappropriate to include industry political/policy advocates on this program. We urge you to make a complete review of the program speakers to assure that the presentations are directed to achieve the goals of the Initiative, not to achieve a political agenda, and that a solid balance is achieved!

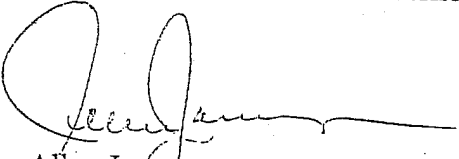
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The current Administration, through the leadership of Governor Whitman, has made science-based decisions and initiatives a keystone of the Agency. We are confident that Governor Whitman will demand that programs funded and supported by the Agency meet this same standard. We believe that, as proposed, the National Forum for the launch of the "National Strategies for Health Care Providers: Pesticides Initiative" fails to meet this standard. This program, as planned, will simply become yet another "Officially Sponsored" opportunity to bash pesticides and achieve political agendas. The medical community, nor the public, will be well served.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. We look forward to your intervention to assure that the program meets the high standards of the EPA under Governor Whitman.

Sincerely,


Jay Vroom
President
CropLife America


Allen James
President
RISE

CC: Senator Tom Harkin
Senator Richard Lugar
Congressman Larry Combest
Congressman Charles Stenholm

Established in 1933, CropLife America (formerly the American Crop Protection Association) represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CropLife America member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers.

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)® is the national association representing the manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders involved with specialty pesticide and fertilizer products used in turf, ornamental, pest control, aquatic and terrestrial vegetation management and other non-food/fiber applications. Visit our web site at <http://www.pestfacts.org>

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