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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2899
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Natural Resources Defense Council National Pesticide Reform

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Natural Resources
Defense Council

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February 26, 1993

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Executive Director

Carol Browner, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 "M" Street SW
Washington DC 20460

Dear Carol:

On behalf of NRDC and the AFL-CIO, we very much appreciated the opportunity to meet with you Wednesday to discuss the need for national pesticide reform. We were greatly encouraged both by your interest and your receptiveness to look comprehensively at these issues with a new perspective.

As we mentioned in the meeting, it is essential that reform in this area include two fundamental components: first, the adoption of a strict, uniform health-based standard for all pesticides in food, whether raw or processed, with explicit consideration of vulnerable subgroups such as children; and second, the phaseout, over a specified time period, of food use pesticides determined by EPA to be "known" or "probable" human carcinogens (EPA categories A and B).

The length of the phaseout should be geared to allow the agricultural community time to make the transition to less hazardous production methods, while providing incentives for the development of alternative technologies. Only through securing these reforms will the underlying principle of the Delaney Clause -- prevention of exposure to cancer-causing chemicals -- be maintained.

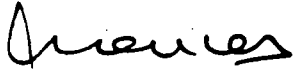
In addition to these legislative food safety reforms, we believe that this Administration could make a significant contribution to public health and the environment by establishing administratively a national goal of reducing pesticide use during this decade. Such reduction will help prevent the growing number of health and environmental problems associated with exposure to carcinogenic pesticides, farmer, farmworker, and chemical worker illness, ground and drinking water contamination, and the like.

We trust that this Administration will take a leadership role to achieve comprehensive and long-overdue national

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pesticide reform, and we look forward to working closely with you on this important environmental and public health issue.

Sincerely,



Frances Beinecke
Deputy Executive Director

cc: Laurence Gold, General Counsel, AFL-CIO
✓Katie McGinty, Director, White House Office of the
Environment