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Dear Secretary Linda S. Adams,

As the former director of the California Water Resource Board, and the Secretary of the California EPA, I am writing you to express my concern about pesticide regulations within California.

As you are no doubt aware, the use of Atrazine on American soil has become an issue of much concern and controversy. While the use of Atrazine is no longer allowed in many of the European Union countries, Switzerland continues to manufacture and export Atrazine to the United States, where it is used abundantly, especially in regions where corn is harvested.

No small amount of Atrazine is used in the US. It is widely recognized that 76 million pounds are used on US soil each year. Assuming that the EU nations have banned Atrazine for valid health concerns, then it is obvious that our State and National regulators are allowing for a trade off, the profits of Syngenta, the manufacturer of Atrazine, at the expense of the American public's health.

If there is significant reason and ample data that suggests a herbicide/pesticide will have negative health affects on the public and the environment, even if no hard evidence or data shows the immediate negative decline in environmental and human health, then the use of the pesticide or herbicide in question should be suspended until such a time that the producers or consumers of the toxin can prove beyond reasonable doubt that the pesticide will not result in a long term degradation of health. "In 1990, California listed Atrazine on the groundwater protection list as a chemical which was found in groundwater.... In 1994, a Special Review was initiated by the U.S. EPA. In this case, concerns were expressed about possible cancer risks, resulting not just from Atrazine, but also from two other related Triazine herbicides, Cyanazine and Simazine, either alone or in combination" (MTB). While the debate is ongoing, the US EPA's ever shifting stance on Atrazine should signify to the California EPA that this is an unresolved issue, and until Atrazine is proven harmless by those who promote its use, this product should be banned.

The very producer of Atrazine, Syngenta, has conducted a study that proves an increase in the cancerous side affects of Atrazine exposure. This Syngenta study showed an increase in prostate cancer among workers at a plant that produced Atrazine. "In addition to its unusually high incidence, prostate cancer among workers at the Atrazine manufacturing facility exhibited several other striking characteristics. The workers who developed prostate cancer were young (almost always less than 55) and this cancer was most common in workers who had worked for Syngenta the longest" (Cox). These studies show significant justification for the suspension on Atrazine use until the herbicide is proven to have no harm.

It is time for the Republic of the United States of America to stand up to these violations of human health, and reaffirm our governance's commitment to the well being of the American people. Do not allow the Californian EPA to bend to the will of agricultural lobbyists. Please lead the fight against Atrazine in the US so that once again California can serve as an example for the rest of the Nation.

Sincerely, Sarah McGuire