



Mt. Lebanon School District

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15228-1107
412-344-2077

Office of the
Superintendent

June 13, 2001

The Honorable James Jeffords
United States Senator
Senate Education Committee Chair
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Jeffords:

I have recently been in contact with Pam Scott, a citizen in Mt. Lebanon, who has taken an active role in spearheading the development and implementation of an integrated pest management program in the Mt. Lebanon School District.

She has indicated to me that there are claims that the implementation of an integrated pest management program is seen by some as burdensome and expensive.

At one time I would have concurred with that position. But having had the opportunity to explore this issue and implement an Integrated Pest Management Program in the district, I am convinced that the Mt. Lebanon policy implemented in June of 2000 related to integrated pest management is working very well.

Prior to the implementation of this policy, we did limited application of herbicides and pesticides and did have a policy in place for notifying our constituents if there were pesticide applications. I have attached a copy of our integrated pest management policy which was implemented in June of 2000. Since the implementation of this policy, we have only needed approval at one time to do any application and that related to a termite problem in one of our buildings. We believe that "least toxic" integrated pest management is the best methodology for protecting children's health.

Mt. Lebanon School District's experience with the implementation of a IPM policy has been very positive. I have found it to be manageable and no more expensive than using herbicides and pesticides. Most importantly, the community is pleased and I feel confident that I am attending to the health and safety issues of the students in the district.

We have worked hard on turf management through a joint agreement with the Municipality of Mt. Lebanon and a youth sports association involving aeration, watering, over seeding, and care and maintenance of our existing fields.

Mt. Lebanon School District is a leader in the area in integrated pest management, and I believe we have found a solution to the issues raised by our constituents and have implemented a program of integrated pest management at a relatively low cost with improved playing surfaces for all of our sports and athletic activities.

If I can be of any help answering any questions related to this policy or the experience in Mt. Lebanon, please feel free to give me a call at 412-344-2076.

Sincerely,



Glenn F. Smartschan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

/s

pc: The Honorable Edward Kennedy
The Honorable Arlen Specter
The Honorable Rick Santorum
The Honorable Robert Torricelli
✓ Kagan Owens, Program Director, Beyond Pesticides/National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides
Ronald R. Hoffman, President, Mt. Lebanon Board of School Directors