



BEYOND PESTICIDES

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November 25, 2014

Dear Friend and Supporter:

We had an important victory in the small coastal town of Ogunquit, Maine this past election day, where 60% of voters passed an initiative to ban turf and landscape pesticides on all town lands, public and private. Your support of Beyond Pesticides helped to make this happen! When given the opportunity, communities choose to protect themselves from the unnecessary use of toxic pesticides by adopting nontoxic practices. Please help us assist others throughout the country with a donation this year.

The victory in Ogunquit sends an important message to the country, just as Takoma Park, Maryland did last year. And, this is a victory for all who support Beyond Pesticides, one that is informed by the science we provide on hazards and alternatives, as well as our core values –that we have a right to (i) clean air, water, and land in our communities, (ii) toxic-free landscapes that are achieved cost-effectively without hazardous synthetic materials, (iii) safe places with reduced chemical threats where children grow up, and (iv) a healthy ecology where pollinators –bees, butterflies, and birds and the natural world– can flourish.

Your support of Beyond Pesticides enables us to be a leading organization in assisting local efforts. Whether it is use of pesticides at schools and playing fields, in parks and forests, along rights-of-way, in and around our homes, or in the production of our food, Beyond Pesticides works directly with people at the community level. We do this because we believe that change that comes from local communities, like Ogunquit, establishes important protections and models for statewide and national action.

We are bringing to communities an understanding of inadequate protections at the federal level. The allowance of toxic pesticides by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begins with decisions that are heavily lobbied by the chemical industry. EPA's recent allowance of 2,4-D, contaminated with dioxin, for weeds in newly deregulated genetically engineered corn and soybeans speaks volumes to the power of the industry, weak federal laws, and a complicit Congress. Because EPA has allowed widespread use of Monsanto's herbicide Roundup[®], it has become ineffective due to weed resistance to the chemical. Now, EPA, in permitting Dow Chemical's expanded 2,4-D use, will further contribute to the pesticide treadmill with an even more toxic chemical until it too fails. The chemicals most consistently linked in scientific studies to bee and other pollinator population decline, the neonicotinoids, also tell a story of industry influence over safety decisions, since the systemic contamination of nectar and pollen leads to the indiscriminate poisoning of foraging and pollinating insects. With your contribution, we support local campaigns to adopt management systems that do not depend on toxic chemicals.

We will continue to fight bad EPA regulatory decisions. Importantly, our analysis of EPA's unprotective decisions drives our program to inform local, community decision making, the choices people make in managing their homes and landscapes, the products and services that

people and institutions purchase, and the food and agricultural systems that we support. It is in this realm where we are winning in community after community. The growth of organic food choices is driven by informed demand at the local level, despite EPA regulatory proclamations of pesticide safety. Our analysis gives people the information to make decisions that provide important protections for their families and communities. At the same time, it is critical that we seek to end nationwide pollution that enters our communities through waterways, air, and food – thus stopping involuntary toxic chemical exposure.

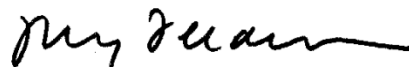
Beyond Pesticides advocates the changing of practices to eliminate toxic pesticides with a precautionary approach, as stated by the head of the National Wildlife Refuge System of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). He said this summer, “We have determined that prophylactic use, such as a seed treatment, of the neonicotinoid pesticides that can distribute systemically in a plant and can potentially affect a broad spectrum of non-target species is not consistent with Service policy. We make this decision based on a precautionary approach to our wildlife management practices. . .” This, in part, is FWS’ response to a Presidential Memorandum in June establishing a Pollinator Health Task Force and a directive to develop a government-wide pollinator health strategy.

Critical to long-term sustainability, Beyond Pesticides is transforming land and building management. We began this work 33 years ago, calling for research into sustainable practices, and the adoption of organic standards with certification and enforcement mechanisms, so that we could point people and communities to credible, verifiable solutions to pesticide pollution. In this regard, we have helped to build an organic standards and certification system that addresses the limitations of EPA’s pesticide registration program. Certified organic practices require the adoption of systems planning that eliminates the need for toxic inputs. The framework has been developed through a public process conducted in open forums involving all stakeholders so that we created public trust in the meaning and value of the USDA organic seal. It is overseen by an independent National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), which I have been privileged to sit on for the past five years. Now, your support enables Beyond Pesticides to work to keep the USDA and NOSB process accountable to consumers and family farmers who believe deeply in a safe, sustainable and organic alternative to practices and products that contaminate and poison.

Please consider a donation to Beyond Pesticides this year. For \$150, we will send you Beyond Pesticides’ 2015 calendar with the winning photos from our Pollinator Photo Contest.

Thank you for your support. Best wishes for the holiday season and 2015!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Feldman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jay Feldman
Executive Director