



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

April 19, 2010

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

I am writing to you with great concern regarding a peculiar and growing problem that is socially and economically impacting Ohio's citizens - bed bugs.

In October of 2009, Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Robert Boggs wrote a letter petitioning the U.S. EPA for a Section 18 Emergency Use Exemption to allow for the limited residential use of a pesticide called Propoxur to combat the rapidly growing number of bed bug infestations in Ohio. According to a study by Dr. Michael Potter from the University of Kentucky, control rates with currently registered products range from 6.7 percent to 43 percent for a 24-hour period. Propoxur, during this same period, achieved 100 percent control.

Bed bugs are blood-feeding insects that infest all areas of homes, day care centers, senior care centers, hotels and hospitals. The nocturnal insects are mostly associated with the bedroom, where they emerge at night and bite inhabitants, causing significant emotional stress and problematic allergic reactions.

And the bed bug infestation in Ohio is not only affecting citizens' quality of life—the economic impact is also steadily mounting. For example, one Dayton apartment complex recently spent more than \$280,000 in an attempt to destroy these invasive pests. The current pesticide treatments used may reduce infestations but the bed bugs quickly rebound.

Reinstating the residential use of Propoxur on a limited basis is necessary because of the insects' resistance to currently approved pesticide products. Without the use of Propoxur, there is very little that can be done to meaningfully stop the spread of bed bug infestations. If the U.S. EPA is not willing to grant this request, I ask that it provide an alternative solution to effectively address this problem.

This is an urgent matter to which I would appreciate your immediate attention. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Strickland".

Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio