

Dr. Clay Switzer, Chair
Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee
2300 Yonge Street, Suite 1701
Toronto ON M4P 1E4

August 9, 2008

Dear Dr. Switzer,

I own a lawn care company based in Milton, and as you can appreciate, I have a significant interest in the ongoing pesticide use debate. Milton, like many other municipalities in Ontario, has chosen to steer clear of evaluating and regulating pesticides and leave those responsibilities to organizations such as Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency and Ontario's Pesticides Advisory Committee.

To my understanding, the mandate of the **Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee** is to advise the Minister of the Environment on matters pertaining to pesticides. The reason being, is that members of OPAC are experts in their field and are uniquely qualified to make recommendations on complex scientific matters such as pesticides. One of the hallmarks of good governance is that organizations such as OPAC are able to operate independently and in a manner free from political interference and personal political ideological agendas. Traditionally, the government of the day respects and adheres to the decision making process by organizations such as OPAC.

Unfortunately, this tradition appears to have been broken. Enclosed please find a letter dated April 25, 2007 from OPAC addressed to the 2,4-D task force, which states "OPAC has concluded, after in-depth consideration of the scientific evidence, that there is no reason for us to recommend additional restrictions on the use of 2,4-D. 2,4-D will continue to be classified according to the current classification guidelines"

I am therefore quite surprised as to why 2,4-D would then be included on the governments proposed list of banned pesticides.

If this is the way we are going to conduct science in Ontario, then what is the point of the continued existence of organizations such as the Ontario Pesticides Advisory Committee? Either we have objective science-based evaluations by unbiased, impartial government run bodies such as the PMRA and OPAC which have access to the full body of proprietary source data. Or we shut these regulatory bodies down and have privately run advocacy organizations such as Gideon Forman's CAPE, Meg Sears, Jan Kasperski's OCFP, Barbara Wylie's CCS, and the David Suzuki Foundation conducting these science based risk assessments.

Sincerely,

Clive Whitlock
Guaranteed Green

Cc. Dalton McGuinty, Premier. John Gerretsen, Minister of the Environment