



We stand for stewardship and innovation

representing Canada's plant science industry

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Re: Ontario shoppers escape pesticide ban in U.S., The Toronto Sun, August 22, 2011

The McGuinty government has been grasping to justify its political pesticide ban ever since they imposed it, so it isn't surprising to see Minister Wilkinson pronouncing that this one study from his ministry is proof-positive that the ban is working.

What the minister fails to say about the apparent drop in levels of certain lawn chemicals is that the levels detected in virtually all samples – both before and after the ban – were in the parts per trillion range and well below water quality guidelines. In fact, previous studies show that for more than 10 years, there have been consistently low levels of pesticides in streams.

One statistic most will agree on is that the Ontario ban was 100% politically-based and 0% science-based. Minister Wilkinson is now attempting to use science to mislead Ontarians into thinking the pesticide ban has somehow improved their environment.

This water study reaffirms that Health Canada's pesticide regulatory process – which includes a thorough environmental assessment– is doing a good job of assessing the products since the levels detected in streams do not pose a risk to people, plants or animals.

This government is trying to take credit for protecting us from a risk that was never there. This ban has done nothing more than taken safe, effective tools out of the hands of Ontarians and created a series of negative consequences.

Sincerely,

Lorne Hepworth
President, CropLife Canada - *representing the plant science industry*

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