

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

NOTICE OF ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

SUBJECT:

Comprehensive Pesticide Management, Public Outreach, and Enforcement.

PURPOSE:

To discuss various approaches to pesticide control and to solicit public input on comprehensive pesticide management, public outreach, and enforcement of State laws.

ALBANY

Monday, February 8, 2010

11:00 am-1:00 pm

New York State Capitol - Room 124

Pesticide use raises a number of environmental concerns and can be dangerous to persons exposed during the manufacture, transport, and pre and post application process. Dangerous exposure routes such as pesticide drift pose potentially significant risks to the general public. A new study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, has reported a seventy percent (70%) increase in the risk of developing Parkinson's disease for people exposed to even low levels of pesticides.

Pesticide regulations and safety education and are designed to protect the public from harmful pesticide application, but do not eliminate all misuse. Choosing pesticides with reduced toxicity or finding alternatives could reduce risks placed on society and the environment. The National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Network defines IPM as "*a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks.*" IPM is a method of pest control that combines multiple approaches of pesticides application, and is a way of reducing harmful results. IPM recognizes the more widespread impacts of pesticide application and attempts to counteract negatives to maintain the natural balances of our environment. IPM has been successfully implemented in a number of states including California, Florida, Maine, Rhode Island, and Washington.

Alternative practices of pest management are available and include methods of cultivation, use of biological pest controls (such as pheromones and microbial pesticides), genetic engineering, and methods of interfering with insect breeding. These methods are becoming increasingly popular and are considered safer than traditional chemical pesticides. New pesticides developed from biological, botanical and alternative derivatives are being produced and will potentially reduce the health and environmental risks. The use of pesticides created at targeting a specific pest's life cycle is another alternative which can be more environmentally friendly. Applicators are being encouraged to consider some of these alternative controls and adopt methods that reduce the use of harmful chemical pesticides.

The New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee understands the need to establish a comprehensive approach to pesticide management and education programs within the State. Aware of these considerations and the need to protect the public against harmful exposure to pesticides, Senator Antoine Thompson, Chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee, and Senators Aubertine, Breslin, Foley, Klein, Krueger, Schneiderman, Serrano, and Stavisky have introduced the following legislation: Senate Bills 4949 (Thompson), 4895 (Aubertine), 418A(Breslin) and 4983 and 5531 (Foley), 1901A (Klein), 1356 (Krueger), 2346 (Schneidermna), 1330(Serrano), 4043 (Squadron), and 1737 (Stavisky).

The purpose of this roundtable is to solicit public input on the approaches advocated in these bills, as well as to explore opportunities to partner with the appropriate agencies on reducing pesticide risks, refining reporting requirements, and improving enforcement mechanisms.

Persons wishing to participate in the roundtable should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. Space at the discussion table is limited and seating will be assigned primarily on a first come first serve basis. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation. The Committee would appreciate copies of any prepared statements or research to be submitted in advance via electronic mail.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Senate, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Senate facilities and activities.

New York State Senator Antoine M. Thompson, Chairman
Committee on Environmental Conservation
Please call 518-455-3371 for additional information

You can also send an email with the stated information to:
gootee@senate.state.ny.us or mcduffie@senate.state.ny.us

Roundtable Discussion Reply Form

- I plan on attending the roundtable discussion to be held by the Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation.
- I would like to make a public statement at the roundtable discussion. I will answer any questions that may arise.
- I will not be attending the roundtable discussion, but I would like to submit a written statement for consideration by the committee members.

NAME:
TITLE:
ORGANIZATION:
ADDRESS:
E-MAIL:
TELEPHONE:
FAX:

Persons invited to present testimony at the roundtable discussion are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail or fax it to:

**RASHIED MCDUFFIE, COMMITTEE DIRECTOR
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR ANTOINE THOMPSON
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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247**

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