

April 3, 2003

Dr. Claire Franklin
Executive Director
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
2250 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A0K9

Mr. Jim Jones
Director, Office of Pesticide Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460\

Dear Members of the NAFTA Technical Working Group (TWG) on Pesticides:

Senior agricultural officials from 9 Mexican states, 15 U.S. states, and 9 Canadian provinces met at the Tri-National Agriculture Accord in Montreal from April 1-3, 2003. This was the thirteenth in a series of annual conferences intended to improve understanding and strengthen collaboration among the agricultural sectors of the three North American countries.

Members of the US-Canada Bilateral Agriculture Accord Working Group have identified several key issues that affect agriculture and agricultural trade among North American countries. One of the key issues identified by the Working Group is pesticide harmonization. We are aware of the large amount of time and effort the TWG has expended on this issue over the past five years, and the Group's focus on harmonizing pesticide registration requirements and processes to facilitate joint registrations.

We commend the TWG on its progress toward harmonizing pesticide registration processes and regulatory approaches among North American regulatory agencies. The progress of joint registrations and the harmonization of registration requirements have reduced the expense of registering pesticide products in North America which should lead to more comparable pricing across borders. Also in the United States, the ability to use emergency exemptions and special local needs has made access to different pesticides possible. However, we are aware of some remaining concerns regarding labels, pricing and availability of pesticides for our two countries.

We are requesting NAFTA TWG update the US –Canada Bilateral Agriculture Accord Working Group on its work and provide assistance in identifying remaining obstacles that hinder

joint pesticide registrations. In addition, we ask for suggested strategies for eliminating these obstacles, specifically those strategies that could utilize the cooperative framework provided by the Tri-National Accord.

Sincerely,

Ralph Peck, Montana
Co-Chair, Working Group/PSAG

Rosann Wowchuk, Manitoba
Co-Chair, Working Group/PSAG

Ralph Peck
Director, Montana Dept. of Agriculture
Co-Chair, Working Group/PSAG
NASDA
1156 15th Street, NW, Suite 1020
Washington, DC 20005

Rosann Wowchuk
Minister of Agriculture and Food, Manitoba
Co-Chair, Working Group/PSAG
Room 165, Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB
R3C 0V8