Dear *Decision Maker*,

I am writing in regards to my concerns about the pesticide use in *Any city/township/county*

As a *Decision Maker*, it is imperative that you become aware of the growing body of evidence in scientific literature showing that pesticide exposure can adversely affect endocrine, neurological, immune, and respiratory systems in humans, even at very low levels.

Pesticides are designed to be toxic. The suffix ‘cide is derived from latin. It means ‘to kill’. Of the most commonly used pesticides, 19 are linked with cancer, 21 with reproductive effects, 13 are linked with birth defects, 26 with liver or kidney damage, 15 with neurotoxicity, and 11 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system.

Children are especially sensitive to pesticide exposure. Children take in more pesticides relative to their size and weight, are more physical in their environment, running, touching and playing outdoors, and their bodies and brains are still developing. Acute and chronic, high and low level exposures to chemicals in the environments of children may cause damage during periods of special vulnerability.

New York University doctors estimate that pesticide exposures cause an annual loss of 1.8 million I.Q. points in American children from neurodevelopmental disorders. It has been estimated the cost of treating these disorders run between $81.5 - $167 billion per year.

The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) is strongly recommending that people reduce their exposure to pesticides wherever possible. <https://ocfp.on.ca/docs/pesticides-paper/news-release.pdf>

• Many studies reviewed by the Ontario College show positive associations between solid tumours and pesticide exposure, including **brain cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer** and **pancreatic cancer, among others.**

• Previous studies have pointed to certain pesticides, such as 2,4-D and related pesticides, as possible precipitants of **non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (NHL)**, and the findings of the College’s review are clearly consistent with this. Ontario doctors caution that patients  **avoid exposure to all pesticides whenever and wherever possible**. This includes reducing both occupational exposures, as well as lower level exposures that occur from the use of pesticides in gardens and public green space.

(*Include details about specific pesticides being used in your county/township/city here. Questions to consider and ask: What is being used? Where? Why? Who is being exposed? How is this affecting our environment? Have hidden health and environmental costs been considered, or only short term expenditures? Are residents being given an equal voice in determining how roadsides, parks and trails are managed? Is due consideration being given to protecting those most vulnerable, like children, pets, and the elderly?*)

You can play a key role in protecting those most vulnerable and preventing diseases linked to pesticide exposure. I am asking you to apply the precautionary principle which denotes a duty to do no harm when it is in your power. Alternatives to using toxic pesticides in our public spaces and roadsides exist.

Please find attached links that are relative to this discussion.

Sincerely yours,

*Citizen Resident*

**References**

Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/resources/pesticide-induced-diseases-database/overview>

Cancer Health Effects of Pesticides

<http://www.cfp.ca/content/53/10/1704>

Non Cancer Health Effects of Pesticides

<http://www.cfp.ca/content/53/10/1712>

Health effects of 30 commonly used pesticides <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/lawn/factsheets/30health.pdf>

Children and Pesticides Don’t Mix <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/lawn/factsheets/Pesticide.children.dontmix.pdf>

New Thinking on Neurodevelopment <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1367862/>

“Pesticide exposure in children.” American Academy of Pediatrics. Roberts, James R., and Catherine J. Karr. <https://goodneighboriowa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/1-Pesticide-Exposure-in-Children.pdf>

**Resources**

Beyond Pesticides list of products compatible with organic landscape management<https://beyondpesticides.org/programs/lawns-and-landscapes/tools-for-change/products-compatible-with-organic-landscape-management>