

September 24, 2013

Dear Maryland Pesticide Reporting and Information Work Group:

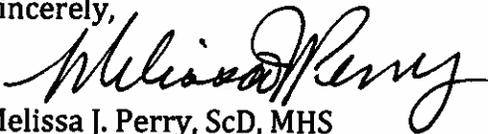
I am addressing the Work Group as an Epidemiology Researcher who for the last 18 years has conducted research on the health effects of pesticides. As Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at George Washington University I direct a laboratory that researches the endocrine disrupting impacts of pesticide. During my career I have worked with farmers in Vermont, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, New Zealand, China, South Africa and Tanzania. I also study pesticide exposures in the general environment occurring outside of farm settings; exposures that occur in homes, schools, and in the outdoors.

Since coming to George Washington from Harvard University three years ago, I have been trying to develop research projects focusing on farmer health and pesticide use among farmers in the Potomac River Valley. I can say that my work has been limited by the lack of access to data on types and amounts of pesticides applied, crops applied to, and dates of application. In terms of geographic information, I could reach out to farmers to ask them to participate in our studies if information was available on the location of farms, whether they are current certified pesticide applicators, and the types of crop land found on their farm and proximity to watersheds.

These kinds of studies are central to the public health of farmers and farm families, farm communities, and the millions of residents who receive water from Potomac River Valley. Farmers want to keep themselves, their families, and their communities safe and healthy but they are ill equipped to guarantee that pesticide exposures to themselves and their environment aren't happening. The kinds of data I mention would go a long way in achieving sensible systems for monitoring and to ensure better pesticide protections for all Maryland residents.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information to the Work Group.

Sincerely,



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