

# STOP AERIAL PESTICIDE SPRAYING IN SANTA CRUZ AND MONTEREY COUNTIES

## WRITE TO CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR ASKING FOR HIS REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

While Congressman Farr does not have the authority to put a halt to the spraying of pheromone-pesticides over our residential areas, he does have the ability and responsibility to represent the needs and concerns of residents within his district (Santa Cruz to Salinas). Congressman Farr needs to hear from us prior to the next scheduled aerial spraying in February. Following are talking points that can be used that encapsulate the issue along with communicating your personal concerns. Pass this on to others and start writing your letter today! **Please request the following of Congressman Farr—**

- Congressman Farr's personal and professional support of the Santa Cruz City and County lawsuits to stop the spraying.
- For Congressman Farr to use whatever means he has available to represent the voice of California residents to USDA and seek more integrated pest management solutions that can obviate aerial spraying of residential communities.
- That appropriate federal and state safety reviews of any pesticide used be performed before any additional spraying commences.
- That the appropriate Environmental Impact Reviews be conducted before any additional spraying commences.
- That the State of California provide adequate notification to residents of when the sprayings are to take place.
- The State of California and the United States Department of agriculture (USDA) include community representation in any future deliberation of residential spraying of any type of pesticide.
- If applicable, describe any symptoms you have experienced and the unknown long term effects to human and environmental health.
- Reaffirm Congressman Farr's personal commitment for environmental protection and supporting Governor Schwarzenegger's commitment in making California a "Green State".
- Remind Congressman Farr that at one time the US government believed DDT to be safe and that often the true toxicity of pesticides and hormone disruptors are not realized for decades.

Write your own letter, express your personal concerns, or use the sample letter as an example. Address an envelope in your own hand writing or typed to: The Honorable Sam Farr: 1221 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, DC • 20515

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Dear Congressman Farr,

Date\_\_\_\_\_

I am a resident of Santa Cruz County. I respectfully request that you do whatever is in your power to stop the aerial spraying of our residential communities with pheromone-pesticides. This action is not in keeping with a large number of Californians who believe in promoting an environmentally sound and sustainable state. Clearly the State of California has caved in to pressures from the United States Department of Agriculture. However, the speed in which aerial spraying of residential areas was chosen as the preferred means of moth control circumvented Federal and State laws under a banner of "emergency" and without inadequate participation of individual residents and local government.

As we all should remember, the government once told us that DDT was a safe pesticide that was needed to control insects. It is often not until decades later when we learn that what we once thought was benign in fact can contribute to reproductive cancers or is detrimental to the environment. I am formally requesting that you urgently represent my voice to the State of California and the USDA regarding this matter. I do not believe that anyone has shown these aerial sprays to be safe for me, my children, my pets, or the environment in which I live. I am sure that no one has any evidence of its effects on pregnant women and developing fetuses. Yet we are all being exposed to these to protect economic interests and will be exposed continually for up to 3 years, with little chance that the goal of eradication will be achieved. Please do not let us find out what problems may arise 10 years from now. The long-term consequences of this or any substance on human health and our ecosystem must be known before such substances are used on the public and the public should be part of the decision-making process of whether it allows itself to be sprayed.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my concerns with you. Please represent my voice as I have requested.

Sincerely, (include you name and mailing address).

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