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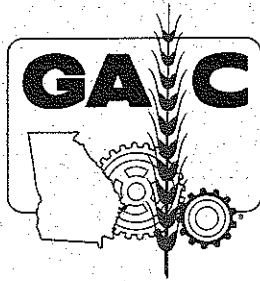
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# GEORGIA AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL

COUNCIL MISSION: "To advance the business of agriculture through economic development, environmental stewardship and education to improve the quality of life for all Georgians."

October 19, 2009

Ms. Lisa Jackson, Administrator, US EPA  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.  
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Dear Administrator Jackson:

I write to you today as the President of the Georgia Agribusiness Council and on behalf of the more than 740 member companies of the Council concerning the upcoming Science Advisory Panel on atrazine which is to take place at EPA on November 3.

Atrazine is an important product used by farmers across Georgia and we do not want to lose a tool that has served our agricultural industry safely for over 50 years. Technology has provided many new options in crop production in the past decade, but managing weed pressures effectively calls for the need to access a variety of weed management chemistries to maintain and enhance our sustainable agricultural practices.

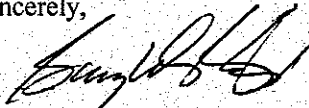
With a commitment to the environment, the Council is active in efforts to advance conservation tillage practices; which saves fuel and provides for more strategic irrigation practices, thus saving water. Atrazine is a critical tool in conservation tillage and no-till systems. Not only do these crop production practices save fuel and water, they help reduce soil erosion. When soil erosion is prevented, so is the runoff into our waterways of sediment, which EPA has identified as the top pollutant in US streams and rivers. In 2008, atrazine was applied to more than 60 percent of conservation tillage and no-till corn acres.

Sustainable crop production practices utilizing atrazine is not only important to our row crop farmers, but also to the livestock and ethanol producers here in Georgia. Poultry production is the largest sector of agriculture in our state. Feed prices are a major factor in these production practices. Feed is also a concern for our beef and dairy industries and, with the addition of ethanol production facilities in Georgia, there is yet another industry dependent on corn production in our state and across the nation.

For 50 years and through many administrations, sound science has governed US regulatory decisions on atrazine, a well-studied herbicide that farmers rely upon worldwide to produce safe, healthy and abundant crops. Safety reviews around the world by the US EPA, World Health Organization, Canada, Australia and the UK have all come to the same science-based conclusion—atrazine, as labeled, can and has been used safely.

These are just some of the reasons we support the use of atrazine. Our agricultural industry needs this chemistry to support the many industry sectors that utilize the harvest of these crops while also supporting farm families. We are counting on you to uphold the integrity of sound science in this review process because if you do, we fully expect a positive outcome for the continued safe use of atrazine. I urge EPA not to abandon a sound scientific review process over activist pressure and fear-mongering in the press. We hope you will consider these comments in your decision.

Sincerely,



Gary Black  
President