



PPC

PESTICIDE POLICY COALITION

A Coalition Working for Sound Pest Management Policies

March 10, 2005

The Honorable James Laurence Connaughton
Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality
730 Jackson Place, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Chairman Connaughton:

The Pesticide Policy Coalition (PPC) respectfully draws your attention to one of the President's congressional priorities that yet remains to be accomplished - the ratification and implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Protocol on POPs, Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP).

PPC believes that the POPs treaty package must be ratified as soon as possible to ensure that the United States has a seat at the international table. The U.S. has already missed an opportunity to formally participate in the first organizational meetings for both the LRTAP Protocol and PIC Convention. Now, the U.S. risks its opportunity for leadership should we again be forced to be a mere observer at the first Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP-1), which meets May 2-6, 2005 in Punte Del Este, Uruguay. The Parties participating in COP-1 will decide numerous issues, including the organization of the POPs Review Committee that will consider proposed addition of chemicals, including pesticides, to the Convention.

PPC urges the administration to maintain this priority and to work with Congress to quickly ratify and implement these agreements in order to protect the United States' leadership role in international pesticide policy and regulation. The House and Senate Agriculture Committees have done a commendable job of drafting implementing legislation amending FIFRA in order to meet our obligations under the conventions. We urge you to reinvigorate the Administration's cooperation with the committees of jurisdiction to ensure our country's formal participation in future international discussions.

PPC members represent a wide range of pesticide users, manufacturers and distributors on all policy matters relating to the safe use and availability of pest protection tools. We are committed to working with the administration and Congress to ensure U.S. participation and leadership in these international agreements.

Please contact me if you need additional information on PPC or our position on this issue – (202) 406-3663 or Rebeckah@fb.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebeckah T. Freeman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rebeckah T. Freeman
Chair

Cc: Administrator John Graham
Acting Administrator Stephen Johnson
Deputy Assistant Administrator Suzy Hazen
Deputy Assistant Secretary Claudia McMurray
Senator Chambliss
Senator Harkin
Senator Inhofe
Senator Jeffords
Senator Lugar
Senator Biden
Representative Barton
Representative Dingell
Representative Gillmor
Representative Goodlatte
Representative Peterson