

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel  
"Re-Evaluation of Human Health Effects of Atrazine: Review of Non-Cancer  
Effects, Drinking Water Monitoring Frequency, and Cancer Epidemiology"**

**Comments from Sarah Gallo  
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My name is Sarah Gallo, Director of Public Policy for the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), and I appreciate the opportunity to testify before EPA's FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel. I am providing comments on behalf of NCGA, which represents more than 36,000 members in 48 states, 47 affiliated state organizations and more than 300,000 corn farmers who contribute to state check-off programs across the country.

Our members are proud to be part of a sector that is one of the few bright spots in our country's balance of trade. USDA forecasts agricultural exports to reach a record \$137 billion for this fiscal year – including a \$44 billion trade *surplus*. That is the highest it's ever been.

Our corn farmers represent an important part of these economic strengths. The United States is the world's largest producer and exporter of corn – and one of the key inputs that makes that possible is atrazine. For more than 50 years, corn farmers have relied on atrazine to fight weeds, effectively and affordably. It is applied on well over half of all corn acres in this country. By EPA's own estimate, atrazine saves corn farmers as much as \$28 an acre in reduced herbicide costs and increased yields.

Our confidence in this vital tool of corn farming has been bolstered by more than 6,000 studies and nine reviews conducted by the EPA.

Just this past May, atrazine got another "all-clear" from a comprehensive study. A new report from the Ag Health Study – a massive, government-sponsored epidemiological study of agricultural workers that has been on-going since 1994 – found no association between atrazine worker exposure and any form of cancer. This latest report studied more than 57,000 licensed pesticide applicators from 1994 to 2007.

It is just the latest in a series of studies conducted by governments and international organizations that have found that atrazine is not a health risk. In 2007, the World Health Organization reviewed atrazine and concluded it is "not likely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans."

The WHO is so confident of the safety of atrazine, in fact, that in 2010 it raised its acceptable drinking-water recommendation from 2 parts per billion (ppb) to 100 ppb. That's far higher than the EPA limit of 3 ppb.

Over the past 10 years, atrazine has been reviewed all over the world – in Britain in 2000-2003, Canada in 2004 and again in 2007, Australia in 2008, and the state of Minnesota just last year. In all of these cases, it has been favorably reviewed from a human health standpoint. Of course, the EPA itself re-registered atrazine in 2006, after a 12-year review.

The safety of atrazine – to people and the environment -- is clear. It has been verified by thousands of studies. The economic importance of atrazine is just as clear. It has been vouched for by corn farmers all over America.

At a time when so much of the U.S. economy is struggling, we cannot forget that agriculture is one of the few areas that is competing better than ever – creating good American jobs right here at home in the heartland of America. Rather than do anything that would hurt our farmers' ability to compete, we should do all we can to ensure that America's farm exports remain strong in world markets. Atrazine helps us do that.