

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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(Same letter to Jay Vroom)

Mr. Jay Vroom
President, Crop Life America
1156 15th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

AUG 13 2002

Dear Jay:

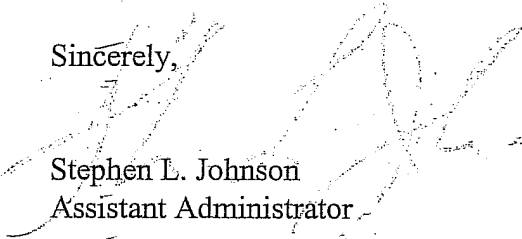
Thank you for your letter of July 8, 2002, in which you raised concerns about the draft agenda for the National Forum to launch the Health Care Providers Pesticide Initiative.

As you know, the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF) is in a cooperative grant partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Labor, and a range of stakeholders on this national initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to improve the knowledge and the skills of health care providers to better recognize, manage, and prevent pesticide poisonings. The implementation plan that Allen James and others helped to create is a model for integrating environmental health issues into health care provider education and practice.

My staff reviewed the National Forum draft agenda that NEETF circulated for comment. They share some of your concerns that the draft agenda might signal a departure from the purpose of the initiative. Also, they were concerned that the date for the Forum would not allow enough time to bring to the Forum the products of the initiative's projects, as well as the results of a number of relevant EPA workshops. After consultation with NEETF, it was agreed that the best interest of the initiative would be served by postponing the Forum until 2003. The agenda, and the process for developing it, will be restructured to insure that we maintain the focus on the original purpose of the initiative.

Thank you for raising your concerns with us. We look forward to your industry's continued support for this initiative. If you have any further questions, please contact Kevin Keane at 703/305-5557 or keane.kevin@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


Stephen L. Johnson
Assistant Administrator

cc: Senator Harkin
Senator Lugar
Congressman Combest
Congressman Stenholm