April 22, 2008

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor
City of Hamilton
City Centre, 77 James Street North, Suite 230
Hamilton ON L8R 2K3

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

I am pleased to inform you that today Premier McGuinty announced that the government will introduce draft legislation to prohibit the use and sale of pesticides for cosmetic purposes on all lawns and gardens in Ontario. This legislation is another significant step towards reducing Ontarians’ exposure to toxic chemicals in our air, water, land and consumer products.

The proposed Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act, 2008, would give the province the authority to make a regulation that will list the specific pesticides and active ingredients in lawn and garden products that would be banned. If the Bill is passed, our intention is to have the ban take effect by the 2009 growing season.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the Mayors and Councils who had the foresight to introduce bans or impose restrictions on the use of cosmetic pesticides. You, too, obviously had concerns with the use of pesticides for purely cosmetic purposes. It is that kind of leadership that has set the stage for a province-wide ban that will protect all Ontarians.

Our purpose in drafting legislation was to extend the protection to children and families regardless of where they live in Ontario, and to establish a consistent program that goes beyond the use to include the sale of cosmetic pesticides. The proposed regulatory approach would also provide a level of consistency and regulatory certainty for residents and for businesses operating in different areas of the province.
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The proposed legislation has been posted to the Environmental Registry for public comment. It can be viewed at www.ebr.gov.on.ca under Registry #010-3348. The public has until May 22 to comment. I look forward to your comments as well.

I will continue to keep you informed as this initiative moves forward, and look forward to working with you on how best to engage Ontarians about the alternatives to cosmetic pesticides that exist.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Gerretsen  
Minister