June 16, 2011

Administrator Lisa P. Jackson
Environmental Protection Agency
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Ensure Pesticide Evaluations Protect Endangered Wildlife and Human Health

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of members throughout the country, call on the Environmental Protection Agency to adequately safeguard endangered wildlife and human health in its oversight of dangerous pesticides.

Specifically, we ask the EPA to immediately initiate formal consultations under the Endangered Species Act with federal wildlife agencies regarding the impacts of pesticides known to be harmful to hundreds of federally threatened and endangered species.

Many of the EPA-approved pesticides of concern for harmful effects on endangered wildlife are also linked to serious health effects in humans, such as cancer, neurodevelopmental toxicity, reproductive harm, birth defects and a host of other, irreversible, endocrine system harms. Failure to evaluate the impacts of pesticides that threaten endangered species and are known to pollute significant areas of our air and water leads to improper approval and use of these pesticides. As a result the safety of our drinking water, the pollinators of our crops, and the health of farmers and farm workers who harvest our food are all unnecessarily jeopardized. Women of reproductive age, the elderly and children likewise face unacceptable levels of exposure to a mix of potent chemicals that are known to harm human health.

The Environmental Protection Agency is entrusted with protecting public health and the environment. Yet the agency has consistently attempted to downplay mounting evidence demonstrating that even low doses of pesticides in wildlife and humans can have dramatic and irreversible consequences. The Agency has failed to reform pesticide use in accordance with scientific findings and has refused to restrict or cancel registrations of pesticides shown to be harmful. By ignoring sound science, disregarding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requests to alter pesticide registrations because of adverse impacts to wildlife, and rushing pesticides to market without adequate safety data through the over-
use of conditional registrations, the EPA has abrogated its responsibilities under federal laws intended to protect imperiled wildlife and human health.

The pesticide industry has largely subverted and sidestepped the intended protections of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Food Quality Protection Act. If enforced, the Endangered Species Act offers strong protections for our most endangered wildlife, with significant ancillary benefits to human health, precisely because the provisions of this legislation addressing pesticides require a more rigorous scientific review process that is less susceptible to industry influence.

The EPA is required by the Endangered Species Act to engage in formal consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service regarding pesticides it registers that may jeopardize listed species or harm their critical habitat. These consultations are intended to ensure that the EPA avoids authorizing pesticide uses that harm imperiled species. After consultation, the federal wildlife agency issues a biological opinion that may specify reasonable and prudent restrictions on pesticide use and alternatives to avoid harm to species. Yet for decades the EPA has consistently and unlawfully failed to properly evaluate whether pesticides it registers are harmful to endangered species.

The consultation process under the Endangered Species Act is a necessary and workable tool for implementing common-sense restrictions on the use or method of application for certain pesticides in environmentally sensitive areas. For some of the most egregious toxins known to be extremely harmful to humans as well as wildlife, the EPA or the chemical registrant may elect to cancel the highly dangerous pesticide registrations. However, a more likely result for most pesticides is a flexible agency-to-agency consultation process that will identify viable alternatives.

Crucially, in almost every instance where the EPA has consulted with federal wildlife agencies on pesticide impacts the agency has acknowledged harm to endangered species, resulting in restrictions on pesticide use in protected species habitats. These include restrictions on the use of 38 pesticides near Pacific Northwest salmon streams in 2004; 18 pesticides in rare California plant habitats in 2000; six pesticides in the Texas habitat of the Barton Springs salamander in 2005; 66 pesticides in California red-legged frog habitat in 2006; and 74 pesticides in habitat for 11 San Francisco Bay Area endangered species in 2009.

A January 2011 lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity and Pesticide Action Network seeks to ensure that the EPA avoids authorizing pesticide uses that harm over 200 imperiled species. Rather than waiting for a court order, the EPA should comply with its statutory responsibility and revise its pesticide review program to incorporate input from federal wildlife agencies. Such a common sense, workable approach to protecting imperiled wildlife from pesticides is long overdue.

Nearly a billion pounds of pesticides are used each year in the United States. Pesticide contamination is pervasive in aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife throughout the country.
and in our water supply, causing significant and unnecessary threats to both wildlife and to human health. Many of the pesticides at issue in the lawsuit have been shown to contribute to the loss of native fish and amphibian populations and cause significant bird kills. Scientists also believe that certain of these pesticides may play an underappreciated role in recent, rapid declines in honey bee and other agriculturally important pollinator populations.

Pesticides are a particular threat to wildlife species facing extinction. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA and expert scientists agree that hundreds of endangered species are threatened by pesticides, including some of the country’s most cherished wildlife such as the Florida panther, killer whale, gray wolf, California condor, red-cockaded woodpecker, Atlantic salmon and bull trout.

Many EPA-approved pesticides are also linked to cancer, endocrine disruption and other serious health effects in humans, particularly children, the elderly, farm families and farmworkers. Endocrine disruptors interfere with hormones, causing developmental, neurological, reproductive and immune system problems in wildlife and humans alike. Endocrine-disrupting pesticides cause sexual deformities such as intersex fish, with male and female parts, that cannot reproduce. Emerging science further indicates that these chemicals have transgenerational effects, so low level exposures today may be transmitted via epigenetic modifications that harm subsequent generations.

A prime example of the EPA’s failure to protect people and the environment is the re-registration of the endocrine-disrupting herbicide atrazine, a widespread pollutant of groundwater and drinking water so dangerous that it is banned by the European Union. Recent research links atrazine to cancer, birth defects and other reproductive harms in humans, as well as significant harm to wildlife. For example, studies have documented that atrazine chemically castrates male frogs at concentrations 30 times lower than levels allowed by the EPA and lower than levels detected in drinking water supplies around the country.

Under FIFRA, the EPA is subject to political lobbying and undue influence over the scientific review process by pesticide manufacturers that advocate for weakening regulatory protections that safeguard wildlife and human health. We all face unacceptable risks as a consequence. The scientific review process under the Endangered Species Act is stronger because it is more independent from industry influence. For example, environmentally relevant dimensions of toxicity such as synergistic and cumulative effects are considered under the ESA in ways not accommodated by FIFRA.

The stakes are high. Childhood cancers, birth defects, neurodevelopmental disorders and a host of other human health harms linked to environmental chemical exposures are all on the rise. Species are dying off at over 1,000 times the normal background rate, pollinators and other indicator species such as frogs, are suffering dramatic declines. Not since the dinosaurs disappeared has our planet seen this kind of species collapse. This historic loss of biodiversity and degradation of human health must be viewed as intimately
intertwined: species and biodiversity loss undermine the productivity and resilience of the natural resource base on which we all rely for health, livelihood and recreation.

We therefore ask that you act to enforce the EPA’s statutory responsibility to protect human health and the natural world from toxic pesticides.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Environmental Human Rights
Monique Harden and Nathalie Walker, Co-Directors
650 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Alameda Creek Alliance
Jeff Miller, Director
P.O. Box 2626
Niles, CA 94536

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Pamela Miller, Executive Director
505 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 205
Anchorage, AK 99503

American University, Washington College of Law Environment Program
William Snape, Fellow in Environmental Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

ARTFARM
Dic Wheeler, Executive Director
119 Highland Avenue
Middletown, CT 06457

Audubon Society of Central Arkansas
Jane Gulley; President
13525 W Markham Street
Little Rock, AR 72211

Beyond Pesticides
Jay Feldman, Director
701 E Street SE #200
Washington, DC 20003

Boston Area Gleaners
Laurie Caldwell, Administrator  
240 Beaver Street  
Waltham, MA  02452

**Breast Cancer Fund**  
Jeanne Rizzo, R.N., President and CEO  
1388 Sutter Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA  94109

**Buckeye Forest Council**  
Nathan Johnson, Staff Attorney  
1200 W Fifth Avenue, Suite 103  
Columbus, OH 43212

**California Certified Organic Farmers**  
Claudia Reid, Policy Director  
P.O. Box 601595  
Sacramento, CA 95860

**California Environmental Health Initiative**  
Nan Wishner, Board Member  
5926 Masterson Road  
Gazelle, CA 96034

**California Food and Justice Coalition**  
Y. Armando Nieto, Executive Director  
398 - 60th Street  
Oakland, CA  94618

**California Minnesota Honey Farms**  
Jeff Anderson, Owner  
721 Wells Street  
Eagle Bend, MN 56446

**California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation**  
Anne Katten, Pesticide and Work Safety Project Director  
2210 K Street, Suite 201  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Californians for Alternatives to Toxics**  
Patty Clary, Executive Director  
315 P Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

**Californians for Pesticide Reform**
Tracey Brieger, Co-Director
49 Powell Street, Suite 530
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Campaign for Migrant Worker Justice**
Wendy Aviña, Interim Director
1221 Broadway Street
Toledo, OH 43609

**Center for Biological Diversity**
Peter Galvin, Conservation Director
351 California Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104

**Center for Environmental Health**
Caroline Cox; Research Director
2201 Broadway, Suite 302
Oakland, CA 94612

**Center for Food Safety**
Lisa J. Bunin, Ph.D., Organic Policy Coordinator
2601 Mission Street, Suite 803
San Francisco, CA 94110

**Center for Native Ecosystems**
Josh Pollock, Conservation Director
1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 303
Denver, CO 80202

**Centro Campesino**
Jesus Torres
216 North Oak Avenue
Owatonna, MN 55060

**Citizens' Environmental Coalition**
Barbara Warren, Executive Director
33 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12210

**Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger**
Laura Olah, Executive Director
E12629 Weigand's Bay
South Merrimac, WI 53561

**CLEAN South Bay**
Trish Mulvey, Co-founder
527 Rhodes Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94303

**Comite Civico Del Valle**
Luis Olmedo
699 E Street
Brawley, CA 92227

**Committee for the Well-Being of Earlimart**
Teresa DeAnda
Earlimart, CA 93219

**Commonweal**
Sharyle Patton, Health and Environment Program Director
P.O. Box 316
Bolinas, CA 94924

**Community Food Security Coalition**
Kathy Mulvey, Policy Director
110 Maryland Avenue NE #307
Washington, DC 20002

**Concerned Citizens for Clean Air**
Maxine Centala
P.O. Box 264
Seal Rock, OR 97376

**Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice**
Tom Colligan, Interim Executive Director
10 Jefferson Street, C-1
Hartford, CT 06106

**Connecticut Sierra Club**
John Calandrelli, Program Director
645 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105

**Conservation Law Foundation**
Anthony Iarrapino, Staff Attorney
15 East State Street, Suite 4
Montpelier, VT 05602

**Conservation Northwest**
Dave Werntz, Science and Conservation Director
1208 Bay Street, Suite 201
Bellingham, WA 98225
Dogwood Alliance  
Scot Quaranda, Campaign Director  
P.O. Box 7645  
Asheville, NC 28802

East Bay Watershed Center  
Robin Freeman, Director  
12500 Campus Drive  
Oakland, CA 94619

Endangered Habitats League  
Dan Silver, Executive Director  
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592  
Los Angeles, CA 90069

Endangered Species Coalition  
Leda Huta, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 65195  
Washington DC, 20035

Environmental Action Committee of West Marin  
Amy Trainer, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 609  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Environmental Health Fund  
Judith Robinson, Associate Director  
41 Oakview Terrace  
Boston, MA 02130

Environmental Protection Information Center  
Andrew Orahoske, Conservation Director  
145 G Street, Suite A  
Arcata, CA 95521

Farm Labor Organizing Committee  
Beatriz Maya, Secretary Treasurer  
1221 Broadway  
Toledo, OH 43609

Farm Workers Self-Help  
Margarita Romo, Executive Director  
37240 Calle de Milagros / Lock Street  
Dade City, FL 33523
Farmworker Association of Florida
Jeannie Economos, Pesticide Safety and Environmental Health Project Coordinator
1264 Apopka Boulevard
Apopka, FL 32703

Farmworker Health and Safety Institute
Alexa Malishchak
P.O. Box 510
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Farmworker Justice
Bruce Goldstein
1126 - 16th Street, NW, Suite 270
Washington, DC 20036

Farmworker Legal Services of New York
Lewis Papenfuse, Executive Director
1187 Culver Road
Rochester, NY 14609

Farmworker Support Committee
Nelson Carrasquillo
4 South Delsea Drive
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Florida Organic Growers
Marty Mesh, Executive Director
P.O. Box 12311
Gainesville, FL 32604

Food Empowerment Project
lauren Ornelas, Executive Director
P.O. Box 7071
San Jose, CA 95150

Friends of the Arroyos
Louann Tung
16 Rockrose Street
Livermore CA 94551

Friends of the Earth
Ben Schreiber, Climate and Energy Tax Analyst
1100 15th Street NW, 11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Friends of the Santa Clara River
Ron Bottorff, Chairman  
660 Randy Drive  
Newbury Park, CA 91320

**Galveston Baykeeper**  
Charlotte Wells  
P.O. Box 71  
Seabrook, TX 77586

**Glynn Environmental Coalition**  
Daniel Parshley  
P.O. Box 2443  
Brunswick, GA 31521

**Grand Canyon Wildlands Council**  
Kelly Burke, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 1594  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

**Great Old Broads for Wilderness**  
Veronica Egan, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 2924  
Durango, CO 81302

**GreenCAPE**  
Sue Phelan  
P.O. Box 631  
West Barnstable, MA 02668

**Greenpeace**  
Rick Hind, Legislative Director  
702 H Street, NW #300  
Washington, DC 20001

**Gulf Restoration Network**  
Cynthia Sarthou, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 2245  
New Orleans, LA 70176

**Heartwood**  
Ernie Reed, Council Chair  
Box 538  
Gosport, IN 47433

**Hells Canyon Preservation Council**  
Jennifer Schwartz, Staff Attorney/Campaign Director
Institute for Fisheries Resources
Glen Spain, Northwest Regional Director
P.O. Box 11170
Eugene, OR 97440

Institute of Pest Management, Inc.
Stephen Tvedten, Director
2530 Hayes Street
Marne, MI 49435

Jacobs Farm / Del Cabo, Inc.
Larry Jacobs
P.O. Box 508
Pescadero, CA 94060

LaRonna Jojoba Company
Laurence and Donna Charpied
P.O. Box 321
Desert Center, CA 92239

Lewis Creek Association
Marty Illick, Executive Director
442 Lewis Creek Road
Charlotte, VT 05445

LocalHarvest, Inc.
Erin Barnett, Director
P.O. Box 1292
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

Lone Tree Council
Terry Miller, Chairman
P.O. Box 1251
Bay City, MI 48706

Mahoning Valley Audubon Society
Jeff Harvey, President
90 Boardman-Canfield Road
Boardman, OH 44512

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Heather Spalding, Associate Director
P.O. Box 170
Unity, ME 04988

**Marin Organic**
Adrienne Baumann, Executive Director
P.O. Box 962
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

**Native Forest Council**
Tim Hermach, Director
P.O. Box 2190
Eugene, OR 97404

**National Disease Clusters Alliance**
Terry Nordbrock, MPH, Executive Director
P.O. Box 44081
Tucson, AZ 85733

**Natural Resources Defense Council**
Kate Poole, Senior Attorney
111 Sutter Street, 20th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

**Neighborhood Pesticide Action Committee**
Margaret Connors
100 Westchester Road
Boston, MA 02130

**New Hampshire Institute of Agriculture and Forestry**
Suzanne Brown, Executive Director
P.O. Box 5002-166
1857 White Mountain Highway
North Conway, NH 03860

**New Haven Environmental Justice Network**
Chris Schweitzer
50 Nash Street
New Haven, CT 06511

**New Mexico Sportsmen**
Oscar Simpson, Chair
3320 -12th Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107

**Nextdoorganics, Inc.**
Kris Schumacher, Co-founder
27 Opal Street
Elmont, NY 11003

Northeast Organic Farming Association
Bill Duesing, Executive Director
P.O. Box 164
Stevenson, CT 06491

Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society
Joanie Patterson, Vice-President
P.O. Box 4751
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Aimee Code
P.O. Box 1393
Eugene OR 97440

Northwest Environmental Defense Center
Andrew Hawley, Staff Attorney
10015 SW Terwilliger Boulevard
Portland, OR 97219

Northwestern Treeplanters and Farmworkers United
Ramon Ramirez
300 Young Street
Woodburn, OR 97071

One More Generation
Jim Ries
P.O. Box 143627
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Organic Farming Research Foundation
Maureen Wilmot, Executive Director
303 Potrero Street #29-203
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Organizacion en California de Lideres Campesinas
Daniela Ramirez
761 South C Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

Oregon Toxics Alliance
Lisa Arkin, Executive Director
1192 Lawrence Street
Eugene, OR  97401

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Glen Spain, Northwest Regional Director
P.O. Box 11170
Eugene, OR 97440

Parents for a Safer Environment
Susan JunFish, MPH, Director
P.O. Box 6673
Moraga, CA 94570

Pesticide Action Network North America
Heather Pilatic, Co-Director
49 Powell Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94102

Pesticide Free Zone Campaign
Ginger Souders-Mason, Director
P.O. Box 824
Kentfield, CA 94941

Pesticide Watch Education Fund
Paul Towers, State Director
1107 9th Street, Suite 601
Sacramento, CA 95814

Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles
Martha Dina Argüello, Executive Director
617 South Olive Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90014

Physicians for Social Responsibility - Sacramento
Harry Wang, MD, President
10 Dumfries Court
Sacramento, CA 95831

Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco-Bay Area Chapter
Robert Gould, MD, President
2288 Fulton Street #307
Berkeley, CA 94704

Project Native
Karen Lyness LeBlanc
342 North Plain Road
Protecting All Living Species
Bill Matturro
Cairo, GA 39828

Public Resource Associates
Susan Lynn
1755 E Plumb Lane, #170
Reno, NV 89502

Rachel Carson Council
Dr. Diana Post, President
P.O. Box 10779
Silver Spring, MD 20914

Rainforest Action Network
Rebecca Tarbotton, Executive Director
221 Pine Street, Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94104

Rainforest Relief
Tim Keating, Executive Director
P.O. Box 298, Church Street Station
New York, NY 10008

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut
Margaret Miner
7 West Street, P.O. Box 1797
Litchfield, CT 06759

San Francisco Baykeeper
Sejal Choksi, Senior Program Advisor
785 Market Street, Suite 850
San Francisco, CA 94103

Santee Riverkeeper Alliance
Mark Bruce, Executive Director
3524 Princess Pond Road
Summerton, SC 29148

Science and Environmental Health Network
Ted Schettler, Science Director
Ames, IA

Second Look
Deborah Moore, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 20915  
Worcester, MA 01602

**Sierra Club**  
Frances Hunt, Director, Resilient Habitats Campaign  
408 C Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

**Siskiyou Land Conservancy**  
Greg King, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 4209  
Arcata, CA 95518

**Slow Food USA**  
Emily Vaughn, Campaigns and Projects Associate Manager  
20 Jay Street, M04  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Small Planet Institute**  
lida Shao, Programs Manager  
20 Jay Street #210B  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

**Southern Horticulture**  
Bill Hamilton  
1690 A1A South  
St. Augustine, FL 32080

**Stewards of the Earth**  
Lupe Anguiano, Executive Director  
1031 Kumquat Place  
Oxnard, CA 93036

**Strawberry Creek Watershed Council**  
Carole Schemmerling  
861 Regal Road  
Berkeley, CA 94708

**TEDX (The Endocrine Disruption Exchange)**  
Lynn Carroll, Ph.D., Senior Scientist  
P.O. Box 1407  
Paonia, CO 81428

**Tennessee Clean Water Network**  
Dana Wright, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
P.O. Box 1521
Knoxville, TN 37901

The Clinch Coalition
Steve Brooks, Director
1097 Old Quarry Drive
Nickelsville, VA 24271

The Cornucopia Institute
Mark Kastel
P.O. Box 126
Cornucopia, WA 54827

Toxic Free North Carolina
Fawn Pattison, Executive Director
206 New Bern Place
Raleigh, NC 27601

Toxics Action Center
Sylvia Broude, Organizing Director
44 Winter Street, 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Brian Moench, President
4091 Splendor Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

Vermont Natural Resources Council
Elizabeth Courtney, Executive Director
9 Bailey Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05602

Vermont Public Interest Research Group
Charity Carbine, Environmental Health Advocate
141 Main Street, Suite 6
Montpelier, VT 05602

Western Nebraska Resources Council
Santana Tamarak, Board Chair
P.O. Box 612
Chadron, NE 69337

White Earth Land Recovery Project
Winona LaDuke and Robert Shimek
P.O. Box 97
Callaway, MN  56521

**White Mountain Conservation League**
Dave Holaway, President
P.O. Box 1852
Eagar, AZ 89525

**WhyHunger**
Siena Chrisman, Strategic Partnerships and Alliances Manager
505 - 8th Avenue, Suite 2100
New York, NY 10018

**Wild Equity Institute**
Rose Braz, Chairperson
P.O. Box 191695
San Francisco, CA 94119

**Wild Nature Institute**
Monica Bond, Principal Scientist
P.O. Box 165
Hanover, NH 03755

**Women's Community Cancer Project**
Margo Golden
c/o The Women's Center
46 Pleasant Street
Cambridge, MA  02139

**Women’s Voices for the Earth**
Erin Switalski, Executive Director
PO Box 8743
Missoula, MT 59807

**Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation**
Scott Hoffman Black, Executive Director
4828 SE Hawthorne Boulevard
Portland, OR 97215