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*Erie County Permanent Adoption of the
Pesticide Neighbor Notification Law
Comments to the Erie County Executive
Buffalo, New York*

Comments by Citizens Campaign for the Environment
December 14, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Erie County permanently adopting the state law requiring advance notice to county residents when toxic pesticides are sprayed within 150 feet of their home. My name is Brian Smith representing Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE)—a not-for-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization, supported by over 80,000 members, working for the protection of the natural environment and public health throughout New York State.

On behalf of our Erie County members, Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) strongly supports the County Executive permanently adopting the New York State Pesticide Neighbor Notification Law in Erie County. I would like to thank the County Executive for signing the PNN law on two previous occasions, and I look forward to his continued support of this common sense law.

Representing over 80,000 members, including thousands in Erie County—CCE continues to find that the public overwhelmingly supports Erie County adopting the Neighbor Notification Law. In just a few short weeks, more than 1200 county residents have signed their names onto petitions calling on the Legislature to adopt Neighbor Notification *permanently*. Additionally, more than 330 letters were sent to the Legislature and the County Executive in support of adopting permanent Neighbor Notification.

This law has proven to be successful, effective, and popular. The law has, and will be become more effective each subsequent year that it is implemented. through continued outreach and education programs for the public, and continued compliance monitoring of commercial applicators, retailers, and do-it-yourself applicators by the Department of Health. Earlier this year, CCE, along with the Erie County EMC, conducted an analysis to gauge retailer compliance with the Neighbor Notification and found the overwhelming majority of surveyed retailers in compliance, which was a definite improvement from the first year that the law was implemented in Erie County. Additionally, the public has continuously supported these adoptions and has come to expect their right to advanced notice before the most toxic pesticides are applied to adjacent properties.

County experiences with Pesticide Neighbor Notification have been overwhelmingly positive. Initial concerns, such as the law being too cumbersome to implement or that voluntary registries could be more effective, have not come to fruition. Erie County has implemented the law successfully on two occasions, as evidenced by reviews of the Erie County Environmental Management Council (see Erie County EMC recommendation). This is the only law that can provide Erie residents with the protection they deserve, and we must act now to ensure that the common courtesy of notification is permanently afforded to our residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your thoughtful consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith
Program Coordinator

Cc: Adrienne Esposito, CCE Executive Director