

TESTIMONY on H. 31. Friday March 17, 2023.

Sylvia Knight, member, VT Pesticides and Poisons Action Network

1) Vermont Law on pesticides. 6 VSA section 1102 ff contained language requiring pesticide reduction — until 2021. It was based on Act 273 of 1969 adjourned session and Act 141 of 2000 and called for establishing benchmarks for increasing areas managed by alternative non-toxic means, and decreasing areas managed with toxins.

The State of VT never established any benchmarks for the reduction of pesticides. The law was REPEALED in 2021 with establishment of Agriculture Innovation Board. This was a dangerous move. The lack of law on pesticide reduction must be on the agenda of any study committee established by H.31.

2) We support H.31. The Vermont Pesticides and Poisons Action Network supports a moratorium and sees it as absolutely necessary to deeply examine the practice of applying toxins directly to water without accountability to future generations and other species. The Precautionary Principle is essential here.

3) Unidentified, secret ingredients. We do not know enough about ProcellaCor's unidentified ingredients, which may include PFAS. Please urge VT Dept of Health to test ProcellaCor for as many PFAS as possible in a certified lab.

4) Significant Toluene contamination. We do know that ProcellaCor is contaminated with toluene at up to 3 grams per kilogram. That is a significant amount. ProcellaCor must be tested for toluene before use in VT. (European Food Safety Authority)

5) Auxin hormone disruptor and health. We do know that ProcellaCor targets, mimics, and interrupts plant hormones called auxins. We know that auxins are present in animals and humans, especially in the gut microbiome. These microbia function similarly to plants. When the gut microbiome is damaged by toxins, our health is degraded. The microbiome operates as a major endocrine system in our bodies to regulate metabolism and neural activity. Scientists are studying the effects of pesticides on the gut microbiome and the resulting harm to human and animals. Another reason for a moratorium. (Chanclud & Lacombe, 2017); Citizen's Guide to ProcellaCor;

Attachments:

Act 273, 1969 adjourned session.

EFSA assessment of floupyrauxifen benzyl, 2018

Chanclud & Lacombe article, 2017

## Citizens Guide to ProcellaCor