



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

January 22, 2009

Dr. John F. Ort
Assistant Vice Chancellor,
Associate Dean and Director, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
Campus Box 7602
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-7602

Dear Dr. Ort:

Last year, Governor Easley appointed an Interagency Taskforce to develop recommendations aimed at reducing agricultural pesticide exposures and improving occupational health among the state's agricultural workers. The Taskforce issued its final report to the Governor in April, 2008 and identified a need for an Interagency Pesticide Workgroup to achieve the following objectives:

- Improve coordination and communication among agencies and groups involved with pesticide regulation and safety,
- Continuous evaluation of the need for additional enhancements or changes in regulations using data from the state's health surveillance and pesticide compliance monitoring systems, and
- Creation of an annual report to the North Carolina Pesticide Board and the Governor.

This workgroup will also address the need to integrate emerging technology, current science and best practices with regard to pesticide use and related health issues. As noted in the recommendations from the Governor's Interagency Taskforce, it is imperative for North Carolina to stay current with science and best practices in regard to the safe, effective use of pesticides and protecting the public's health, safety and welfare.

The Governor's Taskforce identified the **NCSU Cooperative Extension Service** as one agency whose participation on this Interagency Pesticide Workgroup is essential to its success, and I am asking that you appoint a representative to join the workgroup. I have named Mr. James Burnette, Jr., Director of the Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division, to chair the workgroup. Please forward the name and qualifications of your nominee to Mr. Burnette by **February 6, 2009** to assure adequate time for him to notify appointees and schedule an initial orientation meeting. You may send this information to him by e-mail at james.burnette@ncagr.gov, or by mail at:

Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division
1090 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1090

Please accept my gratitude for your support and participation in this important endeavor to further strengthen our laws and regulations governing the safe use of pesticides and protection of North Carolina's agricultural workers. I know that you share my steadfast commitment to our state's agricultural programs and services, and I look forward to our joint venture in assessing select recommendations from the Governor's Interagency Task Force. If you have questions, please direct them to Mr. Jim Burnette at [919] 733-3556 or at the e-mail address noted above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven W. Troxler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

Cc: Leah Devlin, State Health Director