

Dear County Executive Marc Elrich,

We are writing to you as your constituents to express our strong feelings toward the use of Atrazine in Montgomery county. We urge you to ban the use of the herbicide in the county.

Montgomery County's Climate Action Plan stated that it would review legislation and strategies around pesticides and we believe that Atrazine should be reviewed under that principle.

Atrazine is one of the most commonly used herbicides in the United States that is used to prevent weeds in crops such as corn. Atrazine is an endocrine disrupter which means that it disrupts the hormones in animals and humans which can lead to serious health effects such as birth defects and cancer. As well, Atrazine is a groundwater and watershed contaminant.

When amphibians were exposed to Atrazine, it led to the feminization of the males and sexual dysfunction such as lowered sperm count and deformed testicles. Studies conducted on humans have found that Atrazine leads to fertility issues as well according to researchers at UC Berkeley.

Especially, since farm laborers tend to belong to disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities such as the Latinx and African American communities this is not just an environmental issue; this is an issue of social justice.

Furthermore, constituents of poorer areas of Montgomery county are more vulnerable to exposure as they are less likely to be able to afford expensive water filtration systems.

The Climate Action Plan promised to prioritize residents of the county that are most vulnerable and enhance racial equity while achieving our climate action goals. Banning Atrazine would align with these ideals.

We urge you to support legislation for the banning of the use of Atrazine in Montgomery county.

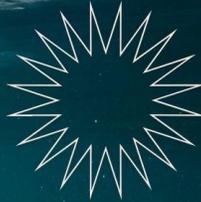
In closing, we appreciate your consideration of our recommendation.

Sincerely,

Montgomery College's Team Demeter

Citation: Tyrone B. Hayes, Vicky Khoury, Anne Narayan, Mariam Nazir, Andrew Park, Travis Brown, Lillian Adame, Elton Chan, Daniel Buchholz, Theresa Stueve, and Sherrie Gallipeau.

Atrazine induces complete feminization and chemical castration in male African clawed frogs (*Xenopus laevis*). *PNAS*, March 1, 2010 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.0909519107



Poisoned Waters: A Call to Ban Atrazine

ONE OF THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO
WATER POLLUTION IN OUR COMMUNITY IS
THE USE OF HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES.
SPECIFICALLY: ATRAZINE

The common use of atrazine as a pesticide is affecting
the hormones in humans and animals. This produces
harmful side effects such as birth defects, fertility
issues and cancer.

Contact your county and state representatives and urge
the ban on Atrazine.

Say NO to Atrazine!

@MC_TEAM_DETEMER