

AUG 7 1969

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND INCORPORATED

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4-August 1969

Dear Scientist:

The Environmental Defense Fund is contemplating litigation against the manufacturers of DDT, an action that is essentially a demand for truth in advertizing and labeling. EDF believes that the users of this material should be told the truth about the consequences that occur when DDT is released into the environment, just as cigarette packages give fair warning of what smoking may do to the health of the smoker. It is hardly enough to warn prospective DDT users not to spray fish bowls or bird cages, and to direct that they keep DDT out of bodies of water when there is no possible way for them to do so.

This litigation would demand that all products containing DDT carry the following statement, which has been restricted to those elements that can be conclusively established with scientific evidence:

WARNING: When used as directed, the DDT [1,1,1-trichloro-2,2-bis(p-chlorophenyl)ethane] in this product can damage the reproduction of, or kill non-target birds and fish, even at great distances from the site of application and long after its use.

EDF believes there are a number of compelling reasons why this kind of action should be undertaken in the near future. As a member of EDF's Scientists Advisory Committee, we would like to know your reaction to this proposed litigation. Before we take any action of this kind, we want to be sure that the action has broad support among environmental scientists. We would appreciate an early return of the bottom of this page with an expression of your approval or disapproval of our proposed action. The envelope is for your convenience and is not a solicitation for funds. This will not obligate or commit you in any way, and no names will be made public.

For those of you who may not have heard, the DDT hearings in Madison concluded on May 21 after 27 days of testimony. Briefs must now be written, and a decision can probably be expected sometime in the fall.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Wurster
Charles F. Wurster
Chairman, Scientists
Advisory Committee

WURSTER

I Approve Disapprove of litigation demanding truth in advertizing and labeling of DDT.

Joshua Lederberg
(Signed)
Joshua Lederberg