Hi Jen,

As I will be out of the office next week and then on vacation for a couple of weeks, I thought it might be of interest to provide an update on progress on this effort.

To date I have eight industry associations, plus CropLife Canada, who have expressed interest in engaging in further discussions on how to collaborate as a more substantial critical mass, representing a significant chunk of Canada’s GDP and innovation investments, to capture the attention of the federal government and encourage an approach to motivate IARC to make adjustments to their current inappropriate practices. These practices being most notably (1) the use of a hazard identification approach, rather than a full risk assessment approach to identifying carcinogens, as done by all credible regulatory agencies in the world, and (2) their continued predominant focus on products, processes and other potential etiological agents that are already more than suitably addressed by existing global regulatory agencies.

Yesterday I had a very positive meeting with the Vice President of Government Affairs for CropLife Canada, who has agreed to host a meeting of representatives of these interested associations to discuss options on next step actions which will presumptively start with a multiply endorsed letter to the Minister(s) of Innovation, Science and Economic Development and/or Health and/or Agriculture and Agri-food encouraging direct communication with the Director of IARC. The letter would raise the deficiencies above and propose a spectrum of optional actions that Canada might range from withdrawal of membership and funding at one end of the spectrum to a proposal for Canada to host and organize a forum for IARC member countries to debate and develop processes for modernizing IARC, or other measures suggested by this collaborative group.
It is anticipated that this meeting of association representatives would occur in late August, or more likely, early to mid September. I am hoping to add another two to four associations to the group for a total of ten to twelve that would be signatories to the letter to the Minister(s).

In my efforts to develop useful options for consideration, I spoke again briefly with Keith Solomon and Len Ritter, both retired Professor Emeritus faculty from the University of Guelph. Neither Keith nor Len had any novel suggestions to put forward to address Canada’s predicament with IARC. Len did confirm that he has been contracted by the province of New Brunswick and the Ontario Public Health Agency, among others, to assist with their review of the IARC findings on glyphosate. While Len does not want to work with us directly, it sounds like he is delivering the interpretations and messages we would like to have put forward on this subject.

I will follow up on my progress later in the summer when I am back in the office. Any useful suggestions would be appreciated. If you have any pressing questions, I will be in the office the rest of this week and available by e-mail and cell-phone next week.

John

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Hi John,

This looks like the right group. Sam, do you agree and who do you feel should set up the discussion?

Thanks,

Jen

Hi Jenn,

Further to discussions during our call Monday morning teleconference, I would like to try to proceed with getting the meeting suggested set up to discuss plans that Brian and I are pulling together for action in Canada and ensure they are aligned with similar plans in the US and possibly elsewhere. Is the group named above the right bunch? Do you suggest I proceed with setting this up, or should I leave this to you or one of the others?

Thanks for your help.
John

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