

**Comments of Mayor Robert S. Lieber, City of Albany  
for  
Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials  
Informational Hearing on  
Light Brown Apple Moth Eradication Strategy  
in the San Francisco Bay Area**

**February 14, 2008**

My name is Nan Wishner. I am Chair of the City of Albany Integrated Pest Management Task Force. I am speaking on behalf of Albany Mayor Robert S. Lieber.

Mayor Lieber's comments are as follows:

The apple moth aerial spray issue is simple. The State sprayed an untested chemical in Monterey and Santa Cruz, and people got sick. Now the State wants to spray the Bay Area.

We know from history the unpredictable and often catastrophic consequences to health and the environment of recklessly blanketing ecosystems with poisons.

In 2008, with the knowledge from decades of experience with DDT, Agent Orange, and other toxic chemicals the government has assured us were safe, no rational pest management program would use aerial spraying except as a desperate, last-resort attempt to control a massive public health threat.

The apple moth is not a public health threat. The only threat is an exaggerated, potential economic one. There has been no reported crop damage from the moth. We cannot risk public health to protect business interests.

Moreover, biologists say eradication of this moth is not possible, and eradication is no longer a realistic pest management goal in view of world trade and global warming, which will continue to introduce new pests to CA. We cannot continue to risk human and environmental health by spraying for every new bug.

The state spray program is not science. It is a large-scale, reckless experiment, and we and our environment are the subjects.

For these and many other reasons, the Albany City Council passed a resolution opposing the spray, and I will continue to work vigorously to stop it.

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