

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NYPIRG APPLAUDS WESTCHESTER COUNTY FOR ADOPTING THE PESTICIDE NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION LAW**

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) praised the Westchester County Legislature today for unanimously voting to adopt the Pesticide Neighbor Notification Law. NYPIRG also commended County Executive Andrew J. Spano for his early support of this legislation, and for recommending that the Legislature approve it.

Westchester is the third county in New York State to adopt these requirements, allowed under the state Neighbor Notification law which was enacted on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2000. Nassau and Suffolk Counties have already opted in to this program, also by unanimous vote.

This is the second major action that the County has taken recently to address the high use of pesticides here. In October, Westchester passed a far-reaching policy to phase out its use of pesticides on county-owned property. The Neighbor Notification law takes the County one step further in protecting Westchester residents from pesticide exposure hazards by requiring that lawn care companies supply advance notice, in writing, 48 hours before most lawn pesticide applications.

“Westchester County has made a significant commitment to protecting the public from pesticide exposure and promoting safer and healthier alternatives,” said Laura Haight, NYPIRG’s senior environmental associate. “We hope other counties will follow Westchester’s lead.”

Last week, NYPIRG and Environmental Advocates released a report showing that Westchester County is among the top ten counties for pesticide use in the state. Virtually all of this pesticide use is for commercial, non-agricultural purposes, such as lawn care and indoor pest control.

Earlier, NYPIRG and more than twenty environmental and health advocacy groups had called on the Westchester County Legislature to adopt the Neighbor Notification law this year, so that it will go into effect in 2001. Many of these groups had worked together to get the state legislation enacted.