



Dear ,

Recent tests found that  's private label foods contain toxic pesticides including glyphosate, organophosphates and neonicotinoids. The foods tested were items that kids and families typically eat including cereal, apples, applesauce, spinach and pinto beans. These pesticides are linked to serious adverse human health impacts and environmental harms.

Customers like me may purchase these items with the intent of providing safe and healthy food for our families, but end up unknowingly exposing them to toxic pesticides. Obviously, this situation does not benefit customers like me, our environment or my trust in you as a retailer.

Other retailers are taking action. For example, Costco, one of the largest food retailers in the U.S., recently announced a policy encouraging its suppliers of fruits, vegetables and garden plants to phase out the use of chlorpyrifos and neonicotinoids. The retailer is also "significantly expanding" its offerings of organic products.

In addition, the European Union recently voted to ban neonicotinoid pesticides. Canada just announced it is going to follow and there are over 200 states, businesses and cities that have taken steps to restrict these pesticides.

Businesses and governments are taking these steps because neonicotinoids, glyphosate and organophosphates are toxic to human health and the environment. Organophosphates are toxic nerve agent pesticides proven to cause brain damage in children and known to harm the environment and wildlife. Neonicotinoids, the world's most widely used synthetic pesticides, have been implicated as a key driver of global declines of critical pollinators and species ranging from aquatic insects to birds. Glyphosate, the most widely used herbicide in the world, is a central factor in monarch butterfly decline and the State of California and the World Health Organization have affirmed its link to cancer.

Organic farms – farms that have eliminated all synthetic pesticides – have been shown to support 50 percent more pollinator species than conventional farms, while also protecting and regenerating the water, soil and other resources that we need to produce healthy food for generations to come. Organic food also has been shown to dramatically and quickly reduce our exposure to toxic synthetic pesticides.

 claims to be a leader in food safety. The  website states that keeping food safe is "part of everything we do and a condition of working with  for our suppliers and partners." We applaud such a commitment. But even the most stringent food safety standard is meaningless if it doesn't account for the toxic pesticides present in common grocery items, especially  's house branded foods.

, **be a true leader – commit to keeping our families and environment safe from toxic pesticides. Stop selling food grown with hazardous synthetic pesticides and increase your offerings of domestically produced organic food.** Your customers will thank you and so will the bees and other pollinators essential to our food supply and the environment.

To learn more please visit www.BeeAction.org or contact beeaction@foe.org.

Sincerely,
Name _____
City _____
State _____

