Dear Mrs. Snorek,

The Environmental Advisory Committee at Bemidji State University approved the following statement on July 14, 2015:

“The Environmental Advisory Committee strongly advises the reduction of chemical pesticide use on campus and, if controls are deemed necessary, consider alternative controls that are environmentally safe, in keeping with the University's commitment to become a more sustainable campus and its signature theme of environmental stewardship."

The Environmental Advisory Committee has discussed pesticide use for at least a decade. The product used (Demand CS) is extremely toxic to aquatic life. Pollinators, such as bees, are affected by pesticide residues for several days following application. Questions have arisen regarding the timeliness of the application and the proximity relative to the lake. Recently, a biology faculty has initiated funded research on purple martins and is concerned about the impact the pesticides might have on the juvenile birds that are fed the pesticide-laden spiders and insects.

The residential life staff is more concerned with the entrance of spiders into rooms since windows can be opened by residents, and there has been some concern about spider bites. Residential buildings are also further away from the lake, so there is reduced risk for aquatic life.

For the above stated reasons, we recommend the elimination of the pesticide on the academic side of campus. If the absence of the use of this product on academic buildings becomes an issue, then the committee supports further research into the type of pesticide used.

It costs the university $6300 to spray this pesticide.

Sincerely,

Erika Bailey-Johnson, Alexandra Miller, and Richard Marsolek

Co-Conveners, Environmental Advisory Committee