

## **Comments on the CASS stand for No Spraying of people and private property.**

It is hard to imagine that citizens would have voluntarily agreed to be sprayed for years from airplanes with untested pesticides and other ingredients known to be health hazards. All of this for a moth that is managed easily and safely in other countries. This assault is unnecessary, profit-driven, ineffective, dangerous and in violation of our core human rights. Yet now, in the flurry of legislative bills from well-intentioned representatives, we find many of us trying to negotiate the terms of the spray without regard to the unconstitutionality of it.

By doing so, we unwittingly surrender our fundamental right to safety, and help to continue a pattern of supporting laws that strip away protections that we and all citizens naturally have. Human rights are not given by the state, so the state should not have the power to take them away. The state is created by the agreement of individuals to protect the rights we all have by natural law. ("We take these truths to be self evident.") There is only one dissenting vote in a lynch mob, but the individual's right to life and liberty, in a just civilization, has to supersede the will of the collective.

It is well documented that safe solutions to potential LBAM related crop damage issues already exist. By taking a stand to uphold our already existing rights, we put the pressure to address the trade problem back on to the Big Ag and Big Chem interests, through the USDA. Trade problems require trade reforms. Pest problems call for sustainable, safe and constitutional solutions. Humanity has survived thus far without surrendering to blanket spraying without consent. Why would we give up our ability to decide for ourselves to a bureaucrat, a politician or even a majority of those choosing to vote in the name of some hypothetical scenario which has never occurred?

Those of us who have made the commitment to get educated on the current LBAM issue are now in the precarious role of advocating for policies that have potential life and death consequences for millions of people. Agreeing to be sprayed under ANY conditions, with or without a vote, by an elected official or otherwise, is agreeing to risk the lives of fellow citizens, jeopardize the livelihood for our community members and forfeit rights of others that are not ours to give.

In the last 100 years there were more than 30 documented cases of US Government agencies, including the USDA, EPA, Army, Navy, CIA, Department of Defense and others, intentionally testing harmful chemicals *covertly* on human populations. At least sixteen of these involved *aerial spraying*. In addition to the Medfly/Malathion debacle, the USDA claimed safety for DDT chemical pesticides and fertilizer nitrates. Subsequently they have had to admit the extreme dangers of all of these and many more.

The Declaration of Independence and the US and CA Constitutions are not inspiring because of their strategy or compromise, but because of their integrity, their intuitive resonance with what each of us knows in our heart of hearts to be true. Hundreds of thousands of people in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas are starting to mobilize against this assault on our health, our environment and our rights. The nation and the world will be watching.

It is up to us to refuse to be violated, and to implement true, healthy and lasting solutions – for ourselves and for future generations.