

The Colorado Pesticide Applicators Act (PAA) Sunset Review

The Pesticide Applicator's Act (PAA) regulates pesticide applicators under the authority of the CO Department of Agriculture. The Act is under its seven-year sunset review. The sunset review provides an opportunity to improve how the state manages pesticides. Unless the CO Legislature passes PAA legislation in 2023, it will expire (sunset).

Currently, the Act fails to protect human health and the environment, especially at this precarious juncture, when pollinator loss and overall loss of species diversity threaten the integrity of our food systems, ecosystems, economy, and life itself. In the meantime, dependence on greater quantities of toxic pesticides continues as weeds and pests develop resistance to chemical products.

The Problem

The PAA does not allow for local innovation that could help protect unique natural resources and public health.

Repeal the state-level pesticide preemption, and provide clear guidance and provisions for alternative regenerative and sustainable alternatives to synthetic pesticide use

The Solutions

We can work to curtail the dramatic loss of pollinators and protect human health by permitting communities to use their local expertise to develop timely responses to specific issues based on current science and expert recommendations. For example, communities would have the option to protect the health of children, BIPOC communities, water quality, pollinators, and their economies by:

- Protecting children from harmful chemical exposure on school grounds
- Protecting prized natural resources such as rivers and streams from surface water contamination
- Eliminating the overuse of chemicals for purely aesthetic reasons

