

Sunset Pesticide Applicators' Act SB23-192

Restoration of Local Control: An open letter to Colorado legislators:

We are writing on behalf of the members of our organizations, the residents of our cities and counties, as public health professionals, scientists, environmental and community leaders, and as individuals to urge you to repeal pesticide preemption and to reduce—not increase—the sunset period for the Pesticide Applicators' Act.

The *independent* scientific evidence shows that pesticides and pesticide-intensive practices are placing our state's residents and our economy in peril. This is not an issue far off into the future, it's happening right now under our watch and the window is rapidly closing to intervene before irreversible damage is done.

The federal pesticide regulatory process is broken.

The assumption that EPA-registered pesticides are safe, and that pesticide regulation is based on current science is not only misguided but is leading to inaction. Scientists urge a major overhaul of pesticide regulation due to “aging Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) regulations, which have fallen out of line with environmental policy and with the science behind our current ecological reality.” ([A proposal to change environmental risk assessment for pesticides](#))

Inaction is harming our children.

“Our system for evaluating scientific evidence and making decisions about environmental chemicals is broken. We cannot continue to gamble with our children's health. We call for action now to prevent exposures to chemicals and pollutants that can contribute to the prevalence of neurodevelopmental disabilities in America's children.” ([Consensus Statement Project TENDR](#))

Inaction is driving biodiversity loss.

“There is agreement in the scientific community that pesticides are a central responsible factor for the observed terrestrial biodiversity declines.” ([Biodiversity Decline as a Consequence of an Inappropriate Environmental Risk Assessment of Pesticides](#))

Inaction will harm our economy.

“Under the current trends in environmental degradation, the risk of ecosystem collapse is ever present and growing, representing **systemic risks for economies.**” (World Bank Report, [The Economic Case for Nature](#))

Local communities are currently blocked from their legal right to protect themselves.

Federal and state governments are taking few if any steps to address the inadequacies of pesticide regulation despite dire warnings from scientists to policymakers that action is urgently required. The Pesticide Applicators' Act strips local communities of our right, [upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court](#), to regulate pesticide use. Every community in Colorado is powerless to protect themselves by implementing the recommendations of independent scientists to reduce chemical pollution and safeguard the living world at this critical time.

Scientists warning to policymakers: “Everything we know and love is at stake.”

World scientists’ warnings into action, local to global:

“Over the next decade, we have a stark choice: to demonstrate the very best of our natures as Homo sapiens – cooperative, innovative, wise, and ethical, to learn from mistakes and create better societies – or to go down with both a bang of conflict and a whimper of bickering, entitlement and self-interest. That choice is ours. The actions or inactions of individual leaders in government, communities and businesses in this decade will be remembered darkly, or hopefully kindly. Everything we know and love is at stake.”

Local communities can create solutions and show what’s possible.

Colorado can lead the way, embracing this challenge with hope and determination, if you will restore the power of local control to where it belongs—in the hands of the people so that each community can choose their way forward. We stand with you, ready and willing to do the work of protecting our families, our environment, our economy and the future for all Coloradans.

Sincerely,

<The undersigned organizations and individuals>

cc: Governor Polis, Commissioner Greenberg, Executive Director Ryan, Executive Director Gibbs, Senate President Fenberg, Senate Majority Leader Moreno, Senate Minority Leader Lundeen, Speaker McCluskie, House Majority Leader Duran, House Minority Leader Lynch, Madame Chair McCormick, and sponsors, Senators Priola and Roberts, and Representatives Kipp and McLachlan