

# Pesticides are Petrochemicals that are Driving Climate Change

“Petrochemicals are set to account for more than a third of the growth in world oil demand to 2030, and nearly half the growth to 2050, adding nearly 7 million barrels of oil a day by then.”<sup>1</sup>

## CLIMATE POLICY IGNORES SYNTHETIC CHEMICALS

The triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and chemical pollution is threatening our economy and our future.

## HIGH STAKES

Fossil fuel extraction and refinement for petrochemical production is accelerating climate change, undermining ecosystem integrity, polluting soil, air and water, and harming human health. Yet, production continues to increase.

## CARBON FOOTPRINT

Petrochemicals are the largest drivers of world oil demand. The global petrochemicals market is projected to grow from \$627.84 billion in 2023 to \$885.81 billion by 2030.<sup>10</sup>

The chemical industry is one of the top carbon dioxide emitters and the most energy-intensive production sector in the world.<sup>11</sup>



### Pesticides Skyrocketing

3.54 million metric tons of pesticides were used in 2021.<sup>2</sup> Global pesticide use has increased by 20% between 2008 - 2018.<sup>3</sup>



### Global Contamination

Synthetic chemicals have been detected in the upper atmosphere, deep in the oceans in soil, water, air, and in the human food chain.<sup>4</sup>



### Ecosystems in Peril

Pesticides are an underestimated driver of biodiversity loss, damaging ecosystems, and contributing to insect, bird, amphibian declines.<sup>5</sup>



### Babies Born Pre-Polluted

Over 200 chemicals are found in cord blood of BIPOC babies.<sup>6</sup> “Numerous environmental contaminants can cross the placental barrier; to a disturbing extent, babies are born ‘pre-polluted.’”<sup>7</sup>



## URGENT ACTION

- **Vote yes on HB24-1178** to empower local governments to work with their communities to reduce pesticides and develop the most innovative solutions.
- **Include the full life cycle of synthetic chemicals** in greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, and consider impacts to air and water quality, and biodiversity.
- **Be aware** that fossil and chemical industries are aggressively protecting petrochemical markets to increase pesticide and plastic use as energy and transportation transitions from oil.
- Listen to physicians, independent research scientists, conservation biologists, ecologists and others who have no **financial interest in perpetuating the status quo.**
- Invest in win-win policies that **reduce reliance on chemicals and pesticides**, including regenerative farming, native plant landscaping and Integrated Pest Management.

## ECONOMIC RISK

**The world cannot afford continued biodiversity loss and damage to ecosystems.**

Ecosystems services generate half of the world's GDP - \$44 trillion.<sup>8</sup> The World Bank estimates that a partial collapse of ecosystem services including pollination, fisheries and timber will lead to a **\$2.7 trillion decline in global GDP by 2030.**<sup>9</sup>

**References:**

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# Organizations Supporting HB24-1178



COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

## Colorado Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics  
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HEALTHY AIR & WATER COLORADO ACTION



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