

Danielle Yost

After reading the strategic plan on pesticides for 2024 - 2028, I believe that stronger regulations should be put in place. The plan starts by listing the mission, vision and core values that DPR upholds but the plan itself doesn't uphold these things. The mission statement states: "We protect human health and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management and regulating pesticides." If the DPR wants to make sure that the people are safe from harmful pesticides and the environment is also safe, then why are we still using pesticides that should be banned. These pesticides being used are causing health problems for not only consumers, but the workers in the fields and people living near the fields as well. In addition, there are schools located by these fields causing young children to be exposed to the harmful chemicals which can have a huge effect on their health and wellbeing. These children are in their prime years of development and having these harmful pesticides floating in the air is affecting their overall health. The plan states the goals as well as a five year strategy, but the damage that has already been done by the pesticides cannot be undone, so why are we not stopping and banning the use of harmful pesticides? Why are we "reducing" the amount being used instead of finding safe sustainable alternatives?

I believe that if DPR wants to listen to the public and take our words into consideration, then this plan will be rejected until a new plan is devised. One that states that all harmful pesticides will be banned in order to create a safer environment and improve the health of individuals.