

## Jim Roberts

In regard to DPR proposed notification system I would urge you to reconsider this well-intentioned but misguided proposal. You are about to unleash a storm of protest and mis information targeted at AG which is already reeling from over regulation all the while it is being forced to compete with unregulated foreign producers. This is my 45th year farming. Since my very first year I have practiced IPM and done my very best to protect the environment, my employees, our neighbors and customers. I farm both conventional and organic crops. I have found that no matter how safe of an operator you are, the public will always over-react when a spraying operation is occurring. The craziest example of over-reaction I have experienced was after spraying Kaolinite next to our county jail.

I have always sprayed at night and this job was no exception. In the morning when the inmates and guards noticed the white residue on the crop, I received every sort of phone call imaginable. People were deathly ill; some went into shock others were vomiting. So... when the Ag Commissioner explained to the sheriff that the white clay that was responsible for the residue had been sprayed on the crop as a sunscreen; that the chemical was legal and nontoxic; and that in fact the chemical is the same material that makes up Pepto Bismol. A reasonable person would assume that a life lesson would have been learned and everyone could move forward. No, both inmates and guards doubled down on their complaints. Why is that? People do not understand science, in reality they barely read. If you watch the nightly news, it is very clear that the public has no interest in the truth if it does not support their position. My point is science is real, the news is not fake and just because someone disagrees with you, they are not evil. In the public's mind pesticides are bad period. Your proposed notification system is going to unleash the crazies on what is left of California Agriculture. For what purpose? To eliminate materials that we all depend on to keep the cost of producing our food reasonable. Please do not do this.

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