

Chris Matthews

Dear Director Henderson:

I am writing in response to the July 2024 30-Day Comment Period on Pesticide Application Notification Regulation. As a member of the agricultural community, I work hard daily to ensure my pest management practices protect my community, my farm and the environment.

I have confidence in the federal, state and local oversight of pesticide use enforcement, and work closely with the county ag commissioners to ensure that we're always working withing the regulatory framework that is designed to keep the public informed and protected. Considering these rules and regulations, I do not believe that statewide notification is necessary in anticipation of pesticide applications and will only serve to the means of activists that intend on delaying or stopping legal and safe pesticide applications. This regulation won't serve the intended purpose for the public that have a sincere interest in helping protect themselves and their families. I'm a strong believer that the best farmers are also the best neighbors.

California already has the most comprehensive notification regarding pesticide applications in the country. Along with adherence to federal pesticide regulations, California's agency CalEPA has created unparalleled pesticide regulatory programs, including the requirement for local permitting authorities to review pesticide application requests. In addition to local authority oversight of pesticide applications, each application request must be recommended by a state licensed pesticide control advisor. The state pesticide regulatory program offers the public the ability to appeal a permit decision with local authorities. All pesticide applications are recorded by DPR and are available to the public. With DPR's current communication methods and information accessibility for the public, the pesticide notification system is duplicative and not necessary. As this system is implemented, I encourage DPR to engage early and often with the agricultural community to be sure that negative consequences are managed.

Sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Matthews', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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