From: CDPR Alternatives
To: CDPR dpr22005
Subject: FW: Please Protect Farmworkers From Highly Toxic Fumigants
Date: Friday, May 26, 2023 11:13:06 AM

-----Original Message-----
From: kkurtz123@everyactioncustom.com <kkurtz123@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2023 9:16 AM
To: CDPR Alternatives <alternatives@cdpr.ca.gov>
Subject: Please Protect Farmworkers From Highly Toxic Fumigants

EXTERNAL:

Dear Director Julie Henderson,

I wanted to bring to your attention an important matter that affects the health and well-being of farmworkers in California, including those whose labor was deemed "essential" during the pandemic. It deeply concerns me that the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is considering removing existing limits on the use of 1,3-dichloropropene (1,3-D), which could potentially expose farmworkers to unsafe levels of this highly toxic pesticide.

1,3-D is a soil fumigant used to control nematodes on various crops. However, it is important to note that 1,3-D has been linked to cancer and poses serious risks to human health. Occupational exposure occurs through inhalation and skin contact, leading to immediate irritation and, in some cases, hospitalization with symptoms such as chest discomfort, headache, and nausea.

Furthermore, the proposed changes to the DPR's earlier proposal are insufficient in addressing these concerns. It is disheartening to think that farmworkers, who contribute so much to our society, are being exposed to such hazardous substances when viable organic alternatives exist. Organic farming practices promote healthy soils that naturally resist plant diseases, eliminating the need for harmful fumigants.

Not only do these fumigants jeopardize the health of farmworkers and bystanders, but they also pose significant threats to soil and water ecosystems. Given these adverse effects on both human and environmental well-being, I strongly believe that the registrations for these soil fumigants should be canceled.

I kindly ask you to consider the gravity of this issue and take appropriate action to protect the health and safety of our farmworkers. By prioritizing organic practices and eliminating the use of toxic pesticides, we can create a safer and more sustainable agricultural system for everyone.

Thank you for your attention and understanding regarding this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ken Kurtz
4960 S Gilbert Rd Ste 1-236 Chandler, AZ 85249-6012 kkurtz123@gmail.com