

From: [Beverly Mitchell](#)
To: [Brian Oakey](#)
Subject: {External}Restore public health protections - Pesticide Rules
Date: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:25:22 PM

Dear Deputy Director Brian Oakey,

I urge you to restore protections for public health that were removed from the proposed Pesticide Rules.

Specifically, I am concerned with the removal of restrictions designed to protect the public from aerial spraying operations, which prohibited low flying near communities, schools and hospitals, required public notification and prohibited application of phenoxy herbicides near schools and hospitals, especially in windy conditions.

As a result of these proposed changes, authority for oversight of aerial pesticide spraying will default to the Federal Aviation Administration, however that agency does not have the capacity to protect public health and safety of Idahoans.

Instead, in order to protect the Idaho's health, I urge you to restore all the sections that were removed including: Low Flying Prohibitions, Wind Velocity Restrictions and Hazard Area Restrictions. Further, specific restrictions on application of 2,4-D, MPCA, MCPB and Dicamba should be prohibited within 1 mile of any Hazard Area.

Finally, the definition of Hazard Area should be expanded to include schools, hospitals, community-living complex or other inhabited area.

Making these changes will better protect public health and farmworkers, while providing clear direction to applicators.

Regards,
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