

**From:** [Ellen Sachtjen](#)  
**To:** [Brian Oakey](#)  
**Subject:** {External}Imperative for a safe food supply  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 7:22:47 PM

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Ellen Sachtjen  
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Dear Mr. Oakey,

As a teacher of preteen special needs children, I implore you to maintain, at a minimum, the chemical standards that exist today within our Idaho food supply.

I grew up on a dairy farm in southwestern Idaho. My dad exploited every new pesticide that came along. I was often exposed to these chemicals and being an obedient child, for years I did not question my dad's use of chemicals. However, as a young woman, I became very ill. I suffered lethargy, flu-like symptoms and aching joints. Upon visiting the doctor who was trying to diagnose my problems and their causes, I mentioned I grew up on a farm. He asked me if I had ever been exposed to toxic chemicals so I named for him the ones I could remember. He biopsied my kidneys. The results indicated my kidneys were only partially functional and at a minimum, I suffered from kidney and liver toxicity. I endured 2 1/2 years of therapy to cleanse these organs and rebuild them. When the time was over, I felt like a new woman!!

Today, even when I am short on cash as with this Covid issue, I make sure I eat organic food. In addition, I grow and eat from an organic garden. I can not take chances that I repoison my body with toxic chemicals.

In the classroom, I am trying to teach young struggling special needs children. Many of them struggle for unknown reasons but their parents work in the agricultural industry. I believe part of the kids' struggles are because of chemical poisoning. Their lack of attention and low energy remind me of myself when I was suffering from chemical poisoning.

Idaho currently has relatively weak laws regarding chemicals. In fact, when compared to California, Idaho laws look just plain lax. Why would Idaho not want to insist on the same laws to protect our children as California does? Are our young people less important to us? To put this in the perspective of \$\$\$ and CCC, who is going to pay for the retirement benefits of all the seniors who live in Idaho? I pray to you, please do not deprive Idaho of its future by ruling to weaken the laws that poison people.

Sincerely yours,  
Ellen Sachtjen

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