

Vote No on HB 1178

Support Maintaining Statewide Uniformity
Keep Policies Safe, Consistent, and Science-Based

Colorado's current uniform system of pesticide training and regulation follows the nationally-supported best practice. An unpredictable patchwork of inconsistent local bans, restrictions, and other regulations would drastically impact those who use pesticides to keep our homes, food, schools, hospitals, public transit, native species, and ecosystems clean and safe from destructive pests and pest-borne illnesses.

In 2023, DORA subjected the Pesticide Applicators' Act to a thorough review and recommended maintaining statewide uniformity.

UNIFORM REGULATION LEADS TO SAFER APPLICATION

All licensed pesticide applicators in Colorado have to go through an exam process through the Department of Agriculture, which utilizes EPA-developed scientific requirements for pesticide use designed to protect both human health and the environment.

Under a uniform, statewide system of regulation, pesticide applicators follow consistent protocols wherever they're applying. If each of Colorado's 64 counties and hundreds of municipalities were allowed to pass their own product bans, application instructions, notice requirements, and timing protocols (etc.), then the risk of pesticide application errors could increase dramatically.

UNIFORM REGULATION IS A MATTER OF EQUITY

Your ability to be protected from pests and pest-borne illnesses shouldn't be dependent on your ZIP code. Homes, schools, and hospitals often rely on safe pesticide application for these safeguards, but a patchwork of local regulations means that not all citizens will be equally protected.

Companies that operate in multiple cities (such as indoor pest control and landscapers) may need to change their protocols to match the most

burdensome requirements. That means if an affluent city passes a pesticide restriction, it could increase costs for consumers across the board – including in lower-income communities.

HB 1178 raises significant equity concerns. Cockroaches are capable of spreading 33 kinds of bacteria, including E. coli and salmonella. Rodents can spread 35 diseases, including the plague and hantavirus. Mosquitos carry West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, and sleeping sickness. The ability to protect citizens from the above pests will be severely hampered if an inconsistent patchwork of local bans takes tools out of the toolbox for pest control operators, landlords, and homeowners.

EXEMPTIONS DON'T WORK

Weeds and pests don't recognize city or county borders -- or fencelines. A noxious weed or invasive pest outbreak will create problems for nearby farmers, which may require them to use additional pesticides to protect their crops.

Safe and science-based pesticide application is complicated, and the risks – to homes, businesses, and public and private land – of unintended consequences due to misregulation are high. Local governments do not have the staffing or resources to effectively manage expansive pesticide programs, which is why the EPA delegates to the state Departments of Agriculture.

UNIFORM REGULATION SUPPORTS COLORADO'S FARMERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Farmers utilize organic and synthetic pesticides to sequester carbon, prevent crop loss, and protect the viability of their land. Local bans could harm farmers' ability to utilize emerging agriculture technologies and threaten their environmental and economic sustainability.

Some farms stretch across county lines, and a patchwork of regulations would impair farmers' ability to effectively manage their land. Also, uncertainty about pesticide regulation prevents farmers from creating the multi-year plans they need to be successful.

Many pesticide applicators work for small businesses that cross city lines – such as pest control companies and landscapers. Trying to follow (and track changes) for a patchwork of regulations would create significant administrative and logistical burdens for small businesses, challenging their ability to operate effectively.

Multi-location businesses – like restaurants – rely on uniform pesticide regulations to protect the inside of their facilities and the outside landscaping. Inconsistent regulations would make it difficult for these businesses to efficiently manage weeds and pests.

UNIFORM REGULATION IS THE NATIONALLY-SUPPORTED BEST PRACTICE

No state has ever moved from a model of uniform regulation, such as Colorado's current system, to local control of pesticides like this bill would.

The overwhelming trend across the country in pesticide policy has been to take a state that allowed local control (or where it was unclear in statute) to uniform statewide regulation.

43 out of 50 states currently have full statewide pesticide preemption. Local governments in those states are not allowed to pass patchwork laws. This includes all seven states that border Colorado – as well as states like California, Oregon, and Washington – that have uniform statewide regulations.

Colorado Chamber of Commerce
American Chemistry Council
Anton Cooperative Association
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Boulder Valley Conservation District
Center for Biocide Chemistries
Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management
Colorado Agricultural Aviation Association
Colorado Apartment Association
Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Arborists & Lawn Care Professionals (CALCP)
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Corn Growers Association
Colorado Dairy Farmers
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Colorado Livestock Association
Colorado Hospital Association
Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association
Colorado Pest Control Assn
Colorado Potato Legislative Committee
Colorado Restaurant Association
Colorado Retail Council
Colorado Weed Management Association
Colorado Wool Growers Association
CropLife America
Farmers Alliance for Integrated Resources
GreenCO
Household & Consumer Products Association
Longmont Conservation District
National Association of Landscape Professionals
National Pest Management Association
Nutrien
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE)
Rid-A-Pest Exterminators
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Rocky Mountain Environmental Golf Institute
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association
Treated Wood Council
TruGreen
Weed Man Lawn Care
Weld County
Western Sugar Cooperative
Western Wood Preservers Institute

