**Email Text:**

Our food system exploits the earth and poisons the farmworkers who keep everyone fed — but it doesn’t have to be that way. One small step the Environmental Protection Agency could take would be to ban organophosphates, a class of chemicals that are widely used as pesticides.

Organophosphates are acutely neurotoxic — meaning that people who are exposed at high doses over a brief period can experience severe neurological symptoms. For children, even low levels of exposure have been linked to reduced IQ, loss of working memory, and attention deficit disorders.

Although Earthjustice filed a petition to ban organophosphates and the EPA is taking public comment on the issue we have no indication that the EPA will follow through and implement this common-sense ban. It took us 15 years of advocacy — filing lawsuits, fighting delays, and making public comments — to get the EPA to stop dragging its feet on chlorpyrifos, one type of organophosphate, and we expect to face the same resistance moving forward.

But the EPA is just one avenue for change — Congress also has the responsibility to do right by the farmworkers and food eaters (that’s everyone) that are exposed to organophosphates. A bill was just introduced in the House of Representatives that would ban organophosphates in food (which is the vast majority of uses), and we need your help to advocate for its passage.

**The bill is called the Ban All Neurotoxic Organophosphate Pesticides (BAN OPs) From Our Food Act — and it would be a huge victory for public health. Join us in calling on your representative to cosponsor the bill.**

No one is safe from organophosphate exposure. Farmworkers tasked with applying organophosphate pesticides are at the greatest risk, and farmworker advocacy groups have long fought to ban the toxic chemicals because of this. Organophosphate exposure isn’t limited to the farm — it lingers on produce like leafy greens and fruit, and people living near fields where organophosphate pesticides are used also experience dangerous levels of oral and skin exposure.

**The only way to eliminate continued exposure is to ban all organophosphates as quickly as possible — and we’re going to need your help to make that happen. Urge your representative to support the organophosphate ban.**

**Target Letter:**

*Existing Cosponsors:*

Thank you for cosponsoring the Ban All Neurotoxic Organophosphate Pesticides From Our Food Act. The health of every person in this country will benefit from your advocacy — from the farmworkers growing our food, to people living near fields and farms, and everyone who relies on safe and healthy produce. I deeply appreciate your leadership on this issue.

I urge you to work with your colleagues to pass this bill as soon as possible.

*Non-cosponsors:*

I urge you to support the Ban All Neurotoxic Organophosphate Pesticides From Our Food Act. Organophosphate use is deeply harmful to farmworkers who have to apply it, as well as the people (everyone) who end up eating that food.

Organophosphates are acutely neurotoxic — meaning that people who are exposed at high doses over a brief period can experience severe neurological symptoms. For children, even low levels of exposure have been linked to reduced IQ, loss of working memory, and attention deficit disorders.

For too long we have accepted a food system that poisons farmworkers and the planet, and we must change that. Please support the Ban All Neurotoxic Organophosphate Pesticides From Our Food Act.