

Vote No on SB 189

— Consistent Pesticide Regulations Protect Coloradans —

Colorado is Stronger Together

- Consistent, uniform pesticide regulation across the state helps protect citizens from the spread of diseases and pests.
- The overwhelming majority of states across the country regulate pesticides at the statewide level in order to ensure consistency, safety, and uniform best practices. This bill moves Colorado in the wrong direction.
- Issues threatening public health and safety, food storage security, and management of harmful weeds don't recognize city or county lines. Bad policy in one city can easily create significant issues for the surrounding communities.
- If there is a demonstrated problem with pesticide regulation, we should examine and address it at the state level. We should be focused on consistent best practices that work for ALL Coloradans.
- Extreme pesticide regulations enacted at the local level can easily result in unforeseen consequences. All Colorado citizens – regardless of where they live – deserve the benefit of well-considered, evidence-based policies to guide the use of the pesticides that protect their homes, schools, hospitals, restaurants, breweries, grocery stores, and green spaces.

Public Health Protections Shouldn't Depend on Zip Code

- Pesticides are a key tool in mitigating dangerous pests like rodents, bed bugs, and ticks. The ability to properly treat these pests using the best and most advanced technologies – and to treat them consistently and effectively across neighborhoods that border city lines – is critical.
- Repealing statewide uniformity would undermine Colorado's recently enacted bed bug law (HB 19-1328, passed with bipartisan support) and disproportionately harm low-income tenants who rely on the protections afforded under the new law.
- Consistent pesticide regulation across the state helps protect citizens from the spread of diseases by mosquitos. Even though West Nile Virus cases are underreported, the CDC confirmed that in 2019 there were 120 cases of WNV in Colorado. Fifty of those cases were neuroinvasive WNV and 6 cases resulted in death.

Responsible Management of Green Spaces is Critical

- Noxious and harmful weeds don't recognize invisible city or county barriers. Weed seed spreads easily, and if not properly treated a weed infestation will result in the need for stronger and more expensive pesticide treatments.
- Some of Colorado's Front Range farmers grow on land that is immediately adjacent to non-agriculture property. Land that is mismanaged due to inconsistent or ineffective local pesticide regulations can easily create a weed management and crop productivity challenge – as well as food waste – for nearby farms.
- Thriving green spaces are critical for both environmental (including carbon capture and water drainage) and recreational reasons. Misguided pesticide restrictions, created absent the guidance of the state Department of Agriculture, could result in a proliferation of noxious weeds that render the spaces unusable.
- Weed seeds can lay dormant in soil for several years. If weed managers lose critical tools in the toolbox for controlling weeds, the resulting problems could last for a long time – even if local policies are adjusted in an attempt to correct the misstep.

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Hyper-Local, Inconsistent Rules Threaten Safety and Small Businesses

- Businesses that use pesticides to protect public health and safety often operate across city and county lines. Navigating an inconsistent checkerboard of rules and regulations makes every aspect of their businesses – including equipment, products, processes, and training – more difficult and expensive.
- Inconsistency and confusion can lead to mistakes. The best way to ensure safe pesticide application is to maintain a consistent and predictable system of regulation.
- The General Assembly is in the process of working to create uniformity in our sales tax system, precisely because we have recognized that a patchwork of disparate, hyper-local rules is burdensome to businesses. Hyper-local pesticide regulation will not only create a burden for businesses – it will also create a risk to public health.

This is an Extreme Policy That is Out of Step with Best Practices

- The overwhelming majority of states have passed pesticide preemption laws that expressly keep pesticide regulatory authority at the state level. The small minority of states that have some version of local government regulation have strong limitations on which elements of pesticide application can be addressed at the local level (for example, limits on spray time notification or buffer zone) and do not give a blank check for broad authority to ban or limit use the way that SB 189 would.
- The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) oversees pesticide regulation in the state. CDA is home to the Pesticide Advisory Committee and several experienced subject-matter experts that help guide the implementation of our statewide standards.
- Keeping pesticide policy at the state level allows for comprehensive and robust stakeholder conversations that consider impacts across a wide variety of user groups.
- Local governments may have good intentions but lack the resources, expertise, and oversight capacity required to manage pesticide regulation effectively, which could easily result in unintended harm to public health and the environment.
- The Environmental Protection Agency, through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, delegates authority to the states to regulate pesticide use. This has been the case since 1947. The partnership between EPA and the states allows for a system of pesticide regulation that is supported by the full weight of federally mandated safety studies with the on-the-ground guidance of state-level Department of Agriculture experts.

**Colorado Aerial Applicators Association
Colorado Pest Control Association
Colorado Potato Legislative Association
Colorado Sugarbeet Growers Association
Colorado Weed Management Association**

**CropLife America
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association
Scotts**