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Bill to Introduced to CA State Legislature to Protect Public Health from Chlorpyrifos

Sacramento, CA -- On Thursday, February 21, 2019, State Senator Maria Elena Durazo introduced a bill (SB 458) to the California State Legislature that would ban the use of a neurotoxic pesticide called chlorpyrifos. In 2016, over 900,000 pounds of chlorpyrifos were applied in the state of California, and over 203,000 pounds were applied in Kern County alone. Chlorpyrifos is a pesticide that poses several serious public health risks. First, chlorpyrifos is a neurotoxin that attacks the central nervous system. Second, a growing body of published scientific research links exposure to chlorpyrifos with long-term harmful human health effects, including neuro-developmental disorders, hyperactivity, attention deficit disorder, low birth weights, and reduced newborn head circumference, which is indicative of impaired cognitive ability. Exposure to the pesticide can happen either through coming into contact with the chemical residue or by “drift,” when the chemical travels through the air after being sprayed. People who are pregnant and children are the most at-risk for harm by being exposed to the pesticide. The Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment Executive Director Caroline Farrell said: “Several government convened scientific review panels have concluded this pesticide should be banned to protect public health. California should take this step to protect its most vulnerable residents.”

The Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment (CRPE) is an environmental justice organization providing legal, organizing, and technical assistance to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color. Our mission is to achieve environmental justice and healthy, sustainable communities through collective action and the law. Follow us on twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.