

State Representative

TIM BLEDSOE

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Pesticide Facts

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there are over 22,000 pesticides with over 7,620 unique active ingredients for sale in the United States. Each year, over 1 billion pounds of pesticides are used on US soil.

The EPA considers children to be especially at risk, especially during critical periods of development. Pesticides may interfere with receptors in the brain and impair hormones in children's bodies.

Pesticide exposure may be particularly dangerous for pets. Not only are family pets exposed to pesticides when they are applied, but they may eat other animals that have "accumulated" chemicals from other environmental sources. Small animals are particularly vulnerable.

Common Pesticides

2,4-D

Ingestion can cause confusion or aggression.

Breathing vapors can cause coughing and burning of airways.

Increases risk of cancer in dogs.

It is very toxic to fish.

Source: National Pesticide Information Center.

Organophosphates

Exposure can cause excessive tiredness and headaches.

Limb pains, mood changes and suicidal thoughts can be caused by exposure.

Source: National Pesticide Information Center

Imidacloprid

Kills honey bees, and studies have shown it to damage thyroids in rodents.

Exposure can cause spasms and difficulty breathing

Source: The Sierra Club

REP. BLEDSOE'S LEGISLATION:

My legislation creates an online database of Michigan residents who pesticide applicators must notify prior to spraying chemicals near their home.

We should have an opportunity to bring our children and pets inside before they are needlessly exposed to pesticides.

Sign-up will be easy online, with a modest fee to help administer the program. In the 21st Century, we should be able to find out when hazardous chemicals are applied near our homes.