

**April 6, 2020**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL CONDEMNS U.S. EPA FOR DOWNGRADING THE CANCER RISK ASSESSMENT OF DANGEROUS PESTICIDE**

**Chicago** — Attorney General Kwame Raoul, along with a coalition of nine attorneys general, today filed a comment letter condemning the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) revised risk assessment of a widely used, cancer-causing pesticide. The new risk assessment downgrades 1,3-dichloropropene's (1,3-D) cancer rating from "likely to be a carcinogen to humans" to "suggestive evidence of carcinogenic potential."

Raoul and the coalition argue that the new rating directly contradicts decades of the EPA's own research showing 1,3-D likely causes cancer. As a result of the downgraded rating, the EPA is no longer required to quantify the health risks associated with exposure, further endangering at-risk agricultural communities. In the comment letter, Raoul and the coalition urge the EPA to retain 1,3-D's current rating and continue to measure the cancer health risk that results from exposure to the pesticide.

"The EPA's draft risk assessment puts agricultural communities at risk by blatantly ignoring decades of science that have proved the harmful effects of a pesticide that can cause respiratory issues and has been associated with cancer," Raoul said. "Illinois is a state that relies heavily on agriculture, and I urge the EPA to protect these communities and retain the current rating."

1,3-D is commonly used as a pesticide in soil prior to planting. When inhaled, it can cause coughing, throat and lung irritation, and difficulty breathing. Long-term exposure to 1,3-D is associated with elevated cancer risks. Exposure to 1,3-D disproportionately impacts disadvantaged agricultural communities that already suffer from significant environmental hardship.

If the revised risk assessment moves forward, the EPA may ignore cancer risks when setting restrictions on 1,3-D's use. The EPA's registration review decision could therefore substantially increase health risks in some of our most vulnerable communities.

In the comment letter, Raoul and the coalition argue that the EPA improperly excludes entire categories of relevant evidence in order to downgrade the pesticide's cancer risk rating. The coalition also expresses concern over the EPA's reversal of its prior finding that 1,3-D can cause genetic mutations in cells – a mechanism by which it can cause cancer. Finally, Raoul and the coalition explain that the EPA wrongly credits a flawed theory advanced by 1,3-D's manufacturer to ignore data supportive of a higher cancer risk rating.

Joining Raoul in the comments are the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, and Vermont.