

Message

From: Paul Schlegel [pauls@fb.org]
Sent: 5/30/2018 11:54:25 PM
To: Bennett, Tate [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=1fa92542f7ca4d01973b18b2f11b9141-Bennett, E]
Subject: Re: 3 PM deadline: KQED Question on worker protectino std.

Ex. 6

Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2018, at 6:52 PM, Bennett, Tate <Bennett.Tate@epa.gov> wrote:

No. Is there a good number to reach you tomorrow?

On May 30, 2018, at 1:58 PM, Paul Schlegel <pauls@fb.org> wrote:

Tate – see below. Have you guys suspended the rule?

Paul Schlegel
Managing Director, Public Policy and Economics
American Farm Bureau Federation

Ex. 6

(o)
(c)
pauls@fb.org

From: The DOJ news alerts email notification list2 [<mailto:PRESSLIST2@DOJ.CA.GOV>]
On Behalf Of California Attorney General's Office
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:15 AM
To: PRESSLIST2@DOJ.CA.GOV
Subject: Attorney General Becerra Sues EPA for Suspending Critical Safeguards for Agricultural Workers

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NEWS RELEASE
May 30, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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agpressooffice@doj.ca.gov

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Attorney General Becerra Sues EPA for Suspending Critical Safeguards for Agricultural Workers

SACRAMENTO – Joining the Attorneys General of New York and Maryland, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) over its decision to suspend critical safeguards for agricultural workers. The Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a regulation first implemented by the EPA in 1992 to reduce the number of illnesses and injuries to agricultural workers nationwide from exposures to pesticides.

In 2015, after determining that many incidents of pesticide exposure might have been avoided if farmworkers had better training, the EPA strengthened the WPS and required employers to provide agricultural workers and their families with new training. This new training resulted from more than 15 years of stakeholder meetings and the consideration of over 2,400 public comments. However, despite the availability of updated training materials, the Trump Administration's EPA suspended the new training requirements without following the necessary public notice and comment procedures. The lawsuit being brought by the Attorneys General is based on the fact that the EPA's suspension is arbitrary and capricious, in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

"EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is not above the law. He does not get to do away with protections simply because he does not like them." **said Attorney General Becerra.** "It's because of agricultural workers — many of whom are immigrants — that families across America can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables. Agricultural workers deserve to know that we have their backs. We will continue to hold the EPA accountable. That's why, with today's lawsuit, my Office has sued EPA Administrator Pruitt a total of 11 times."

Among other things, the training requirements that Administrator Pruitt wants to discard would allow agricultural workers to:

- Learn how to minimize family member exposure to pesticides from contaminated clothing or footwear;
- Access information about the hazards posed by particular pesticides; and
- Ensure they are aware of guidelines for emergency medical care.

Though California has its own strict agricultural worker safety training requirements, many of California's agricultural workers cross state lines for seasonal agricultural work. Without the federal safeguards at issue, these workers will not receive the information necessary to better protect themselves and their families from pesticide exposure.

A copy of the complaint is attached to the electronic version of this release at oag.ca.gov/news

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