# IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

March 7, 2021

Mr. SOLOMON(for himself, Mr. KOAY-JOHNSON, Mr. LIGHTWOOD, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. MOUNTBATTEN, Mr. REAGAN, Mr. CESAR, Mr. TOBY, Mr. JOHN ROSS III) introduced the following bill;

# A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to Re-Evaluate 13 Pesticides banned in other Agricultural nations & deregister harmful Pesticides

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Pesticide Re-Evaluation Act of 2021”

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds that—

(a) Compared to other nations such as Europe, Brazil, and China, the United States permits the usage of 13 potentially hazardous pesticides.

(b) Dicrotophos, Phorate, and Terbufos both are permitted for usage in the United States despite the World Health Organization recognizing them as "extremely" or "highly" hazardous pesticides.

(c) Oxytetracycline and Streptomycin are both viewed as "critically" or "highly" important antibiotics by the World Health Organization, but are permitted for pesticide use.

(d) Paraquat and Phorate are both on the Rotterdam Convention Annex III list which identifies them as hazardous chemicals, but are permitted for use in the United States.

(e) 4-(2,4-Dichlorophenoxy)butyric acid (2,4-DB) is classified in toxicity class III and shows toxicity to cats and dogs, affecting body weight and reducing numbers of offspring; and is moderately toxic to fish.

(f) Chloropicrin, or nitrochloroform, is a toxic and carcinogenic chemical which can induce vomiting and irritation. It has usage dating back to World War I, where it was used as a chemical weapon.

(g) 2,6-Dichlorobenzonitrile kills the roots of many species of plants and has the potential to leach into groundwater. It is moderately toxic to mammals, aquatic organisms, honey bees, and earthworms.

(h) Dicrotophos can cause cholinesterase inhibition in humans, that is, it can overstimulate the nervous system causing nausea, dizziness, confusion, respiratory paralysis and death.

(i) S-Ethyldipropylthiocarbamate, or EPTC, was noticed to increase the incidence and severity of cardiomyopathy in subchronic and chronic studies performed in both rats and dogs. S-Ethyldipropylthiocarbamate and other thiocarbamates are associated with toxic effects on the central and peripheral nervous system. In rats and dogs, it has been observed that an increase in incidence and severity of neuronal necrosis/degeneration in both the central and peripheral nervous system due to S-Ethyldipropylthiocarbamate.

(j) Changes in blood cell counts, increase in liver and thyroid weights, a decrease in enzyme activity, and increase in thyroid effects were noticed in Norflurazon subchronic toxicity study.

    (i) In a chronic toxicity study, beagle dogs were observed to have a liver weight increase, thyroid weight increase, cholesterol level increase, and decrease in red blood cells due to Norflurazon.

    (ii) In a 2-year carcinogenicity study with mices, an increase in liver weight was observed. Along with an increased incidence of enlarged spleen, nephritis, swollen/enlarged liver, and nodular enlargement of the liver in male mice. While female mice saw an increased incidence of inflamed kidneys, enlarged liver, and cystic ovaries.

(k) Oxytetracycline and Streptomycin, when sprayed on fruit trees to act as pesticides, are dispersed through fertilizer, groundwater, and surface runoff. The spread of Oxytetracycline and Streptomycin can both encourage an antibiotic resistance.

(l) Paraquat when ingested in mammals and humans leads to Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. Paraquat is classified in the Toxicity Category I (the highest of four levels) through inhalation. Ingestion of Paraquat can cause liver, lung, heart, and kidney failure. Chronic exposure can lead to lung damage, kidney failure, heart failure, and esophageal strictures. A link between Paraquat use and Parkinson's disease in farm workers was observed in a National Institute of Health study in 2011.

(m) Phorate is toxic for both mammals and humans, as it inhibits acetylcholinesterase and butyrylcholinesterase.

(n) Terbufos can induce death by causing acute cholinergic crisis. It causes irreversible inhibition of the AChE enzyme by the compound, acetylcholine, causing over-stimulation of neuromuscular junctions. Long term exposure includes the development of Lung Cancer, Leukemia, and non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

(o) Tribufos toxicity has been determined to cause a variety of neurological issues, such as altered gait, decreased movement, constricted pupils, piloerection, and other issues, as well as a decreased Red Blood Cells and brain acetylcholinesterase activity. Tribufos has been found to decrease Red Blood Cell counts, Hemoglobin, and Hematocrit has been observed following oral exposure. Histopathologic gastrointestinal tract lesions have been associated with oral exposure to Tribufos.

(p) Four chemicals on the list are organophosphates, which are potent nerve agents. They inhibit the action of acetylcholinesterase in nerve cells. Organophosphates in pesticides act on acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme in the brain. Exposure is hazardous to fetuses and young children, whose brain development depends on the strict sequence of biological events. Organophosphates are identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as possible human carcinogens.

**SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act—

(a) PESTICIDE.— Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest

(b) ADMINISTRATOR.— The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

**SEC. 4. RE-EVALUATION OF POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES**

(a) RE-EVALUATION.— No later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this act, the listed pesticides under subsection (b) shall undergo a re-evaluation by the Environmental Protection Agency. The evaluation should assess the following, and the administrator shall deem the pesticide as hazardous if necessary.

(i) Potential negative agricultural impact

(ii) Potential negative environmental impact on organisms and surroundings

(iii) Potential health risks

(iv) Potential carcinogenicity and;

(v) Potential neurological impact

(b) LISTED PESTICIDES.— The following pesticides should be re-evaluated.

(1) 4-(2,4-Dichlorophenoxy)butyric acid

(2) Bensulide

(3) Chloropicrin
(4) Dichlobenil
(5) Dicrotophos
(6) S-Ethyldipropylthiocarbamate
(7) Norflurazon
(8) Oxytetracycline
(9) Paraquat
(10) Phorate
(11) Streptomycin
(12) Terbufos and;
(13) Tribufos

**SEC. 5. DEREGISTRATION OF HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES**

(a) IN GENERAL.— If any of the pesticides from section 4(b) are found to be hazardous, the Administrator shall deregister the pesticide and enforce its deregistration.

**SEC. 6. ENACTMENT.**

EFFECTIVE DATE.— The provisions of this Act shall come into force immediately upon passage.