April 4, 2011

Ms. Lisa Jackson, Administrator
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, D.C. 20460

Mr. Steve Owens, Assistant Administrator
Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 7101M
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Jackson and Mr. Owens:

As members of the California Legislature, we strongly urge a decision by US EPA to reopen the scientific evaluation process for the registration of methyl iodide. In light of further scientific data accumulated and reported by the Scientific Review Committee commissioned by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, we are requesting US EPA to suspend and cancel all uses of iodomethane (methyl iodide) in the United States, pending review of the scientific evidence.

Extensive scientific analyses have been conducted on methyl iodide and scientists have overwhelmingly concluded that the adverse health and environmental risks to public, worker, and environmental safety associated with this chemical are significant. Methyl iodide is a known carcinogen (Proposition 65 list), neurotoxin, and mutagen. Additionally, there is significant potential for contamination to ground water. According to the chair of the Scientific Review Committee, Dr. John Froines, “there is no safe level of use for methyl iodide.”

We urge you to follow one of the four components environmental scientists refer to as the Precautionary Principle when making a pesticide registration decision and that is to assert...
caution as a preventive action when there is concern about the possible impact on public health. The risks are far too great to do otherwise.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
William W. Monning
Assemblymember, 27th District

[Signature]
Speaker John Pérez
Printed Name
46 A.D.
District

[Signature]
Tom Ammiano
Printed Name
A-0-13
District

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Mike Eng
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49
District

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Norma J. Torres
Printed Name
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District
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Roger Hernandez
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57th AD
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V. Manuel Perez
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80th AD
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Marty Beach
Printed Name

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Bonnie Lowenthal
Printed Name

54th
District

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Holly J. Mitchell
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47th
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W. Butler  
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Betsy Butler  
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53rd  
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Susan A. Bonilla  
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11th  
District  

Warren J. Smith  
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Warren T. Furutani  
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55th AD  
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Ricardo Lara  
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Anita A. Alm  
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Richard S. Gordon  
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Mike Feyer  
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Printed Name  
42  
District