

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9981

To prohibit the use, production, sale, importation, or exportation of any pesticide containing atrazine.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 11, 2024

Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ADAMS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To prohibit the use, production, sale, importation, or exportation of any pesticide containing atrazine.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ban Atrazine Toxi-  
5 cants Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Atrazine is the second-most used herbicide  
9 in the United States, with approximately 80,000,000  
10 pounds used annually.

1           (2) Atrazine has been banned in the European  
2           Union since 2003, and in Italy and Germany since  
3           1991 due to its long-term persistence in the environ-  
4           ment, toxicity to wildlife, and link to adverse effects  
5           on human health.

6           (3) Atrazine is highly persistent in the environ-  
7           ment and can remain in water for decades. Even  
8           after the European Union banned the chemical over  
9           2 decades ago, atrazine can still be detected in  
10          groundwater.

11          (4) Atrazine is one of the most commonly de-  
12          tected pesticides in drinking water, groundwater,  
13          and surface water across the nation. Approximately  
14          75 percent of stream water and about 40 percent of  
15          all groundwater samples from agricultural areas  
16          tested in an extensive United States Geological Sur-  
17          vey study contained atrazine.

18          (5) The United States Geological Sruvey has  
19          found that atrazine is the most frequently detected  
20          of all herbicides in urban streams.

21          (6) Atrazine is detected in rainwater, fog, ambi-  
22          ent air, arctic ice, and seawater at great distances  
23          from urban and agricultural areas.

24          (7) Studies have also concluded that approxi-  
25          mately 217–642 tons of atrazine is annually depos-

1 ited the Gulf of Mexico from the Mississippi River  
2 Basin.

3 (8) Atrazine's impacts on human health are  
4 well documented in the scientific literature. Expo-  
5 sure to atrazine can cause elevated cancer risks,  
6 heightened risks of birth defects, and significant re-  
7 productive impacts. Birth defects are associated with  
8 atrazine, including chroanal atresis, stenosis, and  
9 gastrochisis.

10 (9) Farmworkers and rural populations who are  
11 most often exposed may suffer reproductive harms  
12 such as low sperm count and motility, while general  
13 exposure in conjunction with other pesticides in-  
14 creases risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in men.

15 (10) Atrazine is highly toxic to wildlife and  
16 causes adverse endocrine impacts in amphibians,  
17 reptiles, mammals, and birds, including impaired re-  
18 production, lowered reproductive output, disrupted  
19 development, and immunosuppression. Exposure to  
20 atrazine at levels as low as 0.1 parts per billion have  
21 been shown to harm the development of eggs in male  
22 frogs. Atrazine increases stress hormones in imma-  
23 ture salmon leading to high mortality rates and low  
24 reproductive success.

1           (11) The Environmental Protection Agency  
2           found in 2022 that atrazine is likely to adversely af-  
3           fect 1,013 threatened and endangered species, or 56  
4           percent of all endangered plants and animals in the  
5           nation, including the whooping crane, California red-  
6           legged frog, and the San Joaquin kit fox.

7           (12) The United States Department of Agri-  
8           culture concluded that banning atrazine would only  
9           lead to a 1.19-percent decrease in corn yields.

10          (13) A 2007 study found that neither Germany  
11          nor Italy, both of which are corn-producing nations,  
12          reported drops in corn yields following their 1991  
13          ban on atrazine.

14 **SEC. 3. CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION OF ATRAZINE.**

15          Section 6 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and  
16          Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136d) is amended by adding  
17          at the end the following:

18          “(l) CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION OF  
19          ATRAZINE.—

20                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—

21                          “(A) CANCELLATION.—Effective on the  
22                          date of the enactment of this subsection—

23                                  “(i) atrazine shall be deemed to gen-  
24                                  erally cause unreasonable adverse effects to  
25                                  humans; and

1           “(ii) notwithstanding any other provi-  
2           sion of law, including subsection (b), the  
3           registration of all uses of atrazine shall be  
4           immediately and permanently canceled by  
5           operation of law and without further pro-  
6           ceedings.

7           “(B) REVOCATION OF TOLERANCES AND  
8           EXEMPTIONS.—Not later than 6 months after  
9           the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
10          Administrator shall, in accordance with section  
11          408(b)(1)(B) of the Federal Food, Drug, and  
12          Cosmetic Act, revoke any tolerance or exemp-  
13          tion that allows the presence of atrazine, or any  
14          pesticide chemical residue that results from  
15          atrazine use, in or on food.

16          “(2) SALE OF EXISTING STOCKS PROHIB-  
17          ITED.—In accordance with subsection (a)(1), effec-  
18          tive on the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
19          continued sale or use of existing stocks of atrazine  
20          shall be prohibited.

21          “(3) NO FUTURE ATRAZINE REGISTRATIONS.—  
22          Effective on the date of the enactment of this sub-  
23          section, the Administrator may not register any pes-  
24          ticide containing atrazine under section 4.

1           “(4) INELIGIBILITY FOR EMERGENCY USE.—  
2           Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pes-  
3           ticide canceled under this section shall not be eligible  
4           for use under section 18.

5           “(5) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
6           ‘atrazine’ refers to the pesticide chemical 2-chloro-4-  
7           ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-1,3,5-triazine.”.

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