

---

California  
Rural Legal  
Assistance  
Foundation

---

June 11, 2013

Assembly Member Bob Wieckowski, Chair  
Assembly Judiciary Committee  
1020 N Street Room 104  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via FAX: (916) 319-2188

Re: SB 193 - SUPPORT

**MAIN OFFICE**

2210 "K" Street, Suite 201  
Sacramento, California 95816  
(916) 446-7904  
Fax: 446-3057

Amagda Pérez, Esq.  
Executive Director

Mark S. Schacht  
Deputy Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rosa Armendariz  
Oakland

Silvia Garcia, Esq.  
(1968-2012)

Estela Lopez, Esq.  
San Francisco

Manuel Magaña  
Palmdale

Richard Pearl, Esq.  
Berkeley

Leticia Saucedo, Esq.  
Davis

Rosario Vasquez  
Los Angeles

**REGIONAL  
PROJECT OFFICES**

Fresno  
--Community Equity  
--Sustainable Rural Communities Project

Modesto  
--Central Valley Partnership for Citizenship

Oakland  
--Employment & Labor Law Project  
--Labor & Civil Rights Litigation Project

Oceanside  
--Border & Human Rights Project

Sacramento  
--Agricultural Workers Health Project  
--Education Equity & Youth Justice Project  
--California Rural Citizenship Campaign  
--Immigrant Integration Project  
--Labor & Civil Rights Litigation Project  
--Labor & Employment Project  
--Pesticides & Worker Safety Project  
--Protecting Children of Immigrants  
--Rural Housing Project  
--Sustainable Communities Project  
--Workers Rights Project

Dear Chairman Wieckowski and Members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee:

The California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation is writing in strong support of SB 193. Our organization strives to improve working conditions for agricultural workers on farms and in dairies and packing houses where they can be heavily exposed to many toxic chemicals used in fertilizing, refrigeration, cleaning and other processes and this bill would provide an important means for informing employers and workers when new information about a chemical's hazards and safer substitutes comes to light or when HESIS develops bilingual educational materials for low literacy workers. The highly technical Material Safety Data Sheets which employers must have available in the workplace are of limited use to agricultural workers who do not read English and often have limited literacy even in Spanish.

Current law requires HESIS to provide information of practical use to employers, employees, and others on toxic chemical exposure workplace hazards but it does not give HESIS the ability to find out where any toxic chemicals are being used in California, thus undermining HESIS ability to provide early warnings about newly recognized health effects and methods for reducing worker exposure to toxic chemicals. SB 193 would require chemical manufacturers and others in the chain of distribution to provide, upon written request, the names and addresses of customers who have purchased specified toxic chemicals or commercial products containing those toxic chemicals, and SB 193 also assures that the customer lists will remain confidential.

SB 193 assures that HESIS can reach and advise employers on measures needed to protect their workers, including information on safer alternatives, when HESIS has information regarding negative health impacts of certain toxic chemicals. HESIS will be able to target those at risk rather than merely posting its valuable guidance to limit exposure and prevent disease on the web with no guarantee it will reach those in need. As workers are often exposed to toxic chemicals whose health effects are not all known, HESIS's ability to act quickly and efficiently is vital to protect workers' health and safety.

We urge you to support this important bill.

Sincerely,



Anne Katten, MPH  
Pesticide and Work Safety Project Director  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

---

California  
Rural Legal  
Assistance  
Foundation

---

March 7, 2013

Senator Bill Monning  
State Capitol Room 4066  
Sacramento, CA 90301 e-mailed to Kathy.Smith@sen.ca.gov

Re: SB 193 - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Monning:

The California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation is writing in strong support of SB 193. Our organization strives to improve working conditions for agricultural workers on farms and in dairies and packing houses where they can be heavily exposed to many toxic chemicals used in fertilizing, refrigeration, cleaning and other processes and this bill would provide an important means for informing employers and workers when new information about a chemical's hazards and safer substitutes comes to light or when HESIS develops bilingual educational materials for low literacy workers. The highly technical Material Safety Data Sheets which employers must have available in the workplace are of limited use to agricultural workers who do not read English and often have limited literacy even in Spanish.

Current law requires HESIS to provide information of practical use to employers, employees, and others on toxic chemical exposure workplace hazards but it does **not** give HESIS the ability to find out where any toxic chemicals are being used in California, thus undermining HESIS ability to provide early warnings about newly recognized health effects and methods for reducing worker exposure to toxic chemicals. SB 193 would require chemical manufacturers and others in the chain of distribution to provide, upon written request, the names and addresses of customers who have purchased specified toxic chemicals or commercial products containing those toxic chemicals, **and** SB 193 also assures that the customer lists will remain confidential.

SB 193 assures that HESIS can reach and advise employers on measures needed to protect their workers, including information on safer alternatives, when HESIS has information regarding negative health impacts of certain toxic chemicals. HESIS will be able to target those at risk rather than merely posting its valuable guidance to limit exposure and prevent disease on the web with no guarantee it will reach those in need. As workers are often exposed to toxic chemicals whose health effects are not all known, HESIS's ability to act quickly and efficiently is vital to protect workers' health and safety.

We thank you for authoring this important bill.

Sincerely,



Anne Katten, MPH  
Pesticide and Work Safety Project Director  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
916-446-7901 x 2019  
[akatten@crlaf.org](mailto:akatten@crlaf.org)

**MAIN OFFICE**

2210 "K" Street, Suite 201  
Sacramento, California 95816  
(916) 446-7904  
Fax: 446-3057

Amagda Pérez, Esq.  
Executive Director

Mark S. Schacht  
Deputy Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rosa Armendariz  
Oakland

Silvia García, Esq.  
(1968-2012)

Estela Lopez, Esq.  
San Francisco

Manuel Magaña  
Palmdale

Richard Pearl, Esq.  
Berkeley

Leticia Saucedo, Esq.  
Davis

Rosario Vasquez  
Los Angeles

**REGIONAL  
PROJECT OFFICES**

Fresno  
--Community Equity  
--Sustainable Rural Communities Project

Modesto  
--Central Valley Partnership for Citizenship

Oakland  
--Employment & Labor Law Project  
--Labor & Civil Rights Litigation Project

Oceanside  
--Border & Human Rights Project

Sacramento  
--Agricultural Workers Health Project  
--Education Equity & Youth Justice Project  
--California Rural Citizenship Campaign  
--Immigrant Integration Project  
--Labor & Civil Rights Litigation Project  
--Labor & Employment Project  
--Pesticides & Worker Safety Project  
--Protecting Children of Immigrants  
--Rural Housing Project  
--Sustainable Communities Project  
--Workers Rights Project