

Stop Selling Driscoll's Conventional Berries Until the Company Stops Poisoning Schoolchildren

Dear Grocery Store Management,

I am writing to urge your company to suspend sales of **Driscoll's conventionally grown berries** until this family owned business commits and takes meaningful action to end hazardous, child-harming pesticide applications near schools.

Driscoll's is based in Watsonville, California, where the company has many conventional farms right next to elementary and middle schools. State records document that multiple, carcinogenic pesticides used on these farms regularly drift onto school property and into classrooms.

No child should be forced to breathe carcinogens while in a classroom or playing on a playground. Yet children at schools near Driscoll's berry fields continue to suffer from pesticide drift. Parents have raised concerns for years due to elevated cancer rates, asthma and other serious health problems. In fact, Watsonville's childhood cancer rates are 38% higher than the California average.

Of the 6 pesticide air monitors in the state, 5 are at schools and continue to record 1,3-D (a carcinogenic pesticide banned in 34 countries) air levels far above the state's official Prop 65 cancer risk threshold. At one school, the 12-year average 1,3-D concentration has been 2.3 times higher than the Prop 65 cancer risk threshold. That is 230% of the lifetime cancer risk level set by California's cancer experts!

Children are especially vulnerable — their bodies and brains are still developing. They breathe more air, drink more water, and eat more food relative to their body weight than adults. Even low-level exposure during these critical stages can have lifelong consequences.

Rather than taking meaningful action, Driscoll's has continued business as usual, claiming what they are doing is legal. **It may be legal, but it is so horribly wrong and immoral.**

When a company refuses to change practices that clearly endanger children's health, retailers have the opportunity and responsibility to act. Grocers have long used their purchasing power to influence suppliers on food safety, animal welfare, and the environment. I urge you to do so now.

I ask that you suspend sales of Driscoll's conventional berries until the company publicly commits to ending pesticide applications that expose nearby schools and communities, and adopts farming practices that prioritize children's health.

Market pressure is often the only force that changes destructive corporate behavior.

I respectfully ask you to use your market influence to help bring about the change that Driscoll's has so far refused to make. Children's health should never be negotiable.

Please make the pledge and join the list of proactive, caring, community-minded grocers taking action here: www.tinyurl.com/BerryPledge

Sincerely,