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If The White House Were Located In A Peanut Field...

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If the White House were located in a peanut field . . . or if Congress met on a corn field and members' homes were built next to broccoli farms, if their children's schools bordered on apple orchards

or the offices of the EPA were set down in alfalfa country and crop dusters spread chlorpyrifos while they met, bringing on headaches, nausea and asthma

or if the children born with brain deficits due to prenatal exposure from a nearby orange orchard were their grandchildren,

if the air conditioners at Dow Chemical ingested chlorpyrifos drifting from soybean fields, circulated them, and board members suddenly began coughing, could not breathe and were rushed to a hospital emergency room just in time—or a few minutes too late—to save their lives

or if their own children breathed in drift from vineyards or played in creeks where the drift settled or were farm workers exposed to pesticides week after week as they labored to provide food for their families

or their grandchildren suffered irreparable brain damage because they were close to a golf course when it was sprayed

then Dow Chemical would have ceased making chlorpyrifos

or the EPA would have banned it decades ago, and not granted another delay in the decision-making process at the request of Dow

or Congress would have acted or the President would appoint an Environmental Protection Agency head who would act immediately to outlaw chlorpyrifos.

WILDA MORRIS