

I'm Kathleen Sands and I started Lyons Climate Action group this Summer because I was upset about climate change and wanted to make a difference. I read a book on the subject from a local author called A Finer Future which inspired me to act and discusses to act locally and think globally.

I learned in this book a huge issue for our climate is the chemicals we use on our soils, it states that next to fossil fuels, agriculture including the use of chemicals is the 2nd biggest accelerator for climate change. Herbicides render our soils infertile —are poisonous to people, wildlife and native plants which are key for the balance of our ecosystem

This morning at 7:40 am, just when kids were being dropped off for school, Boulder County Parks & Open Space sprayed Indazaflam (a close cousin to glyphosate), an EPA approved herbicide —near my son's school and the Town of Lyons. I kept my son home today for this reason.

This was done against the wishes of the town's people. Even the Town of Lyons has adopted a non chemical Weed Management Plan, BCPOS doused us with harmful chemicals anyway today. With one day's notice, 40 people showed up and were unanimously against this practice for eradicated cheatgrass. Many experts were there that told of natural ways to handle the weeds including targeted goats grazing, mowing before they go to seed and many others that have been successful all over the country. Our voices were clearly not heard.

Boulder County, especially Parks & Open Space, need to start looking at the science of the dangers of these chemicals and the wishes of the community they work for and stop this practice. We begged the commissioners over the past week to stop the spray and take look at this more closely and we were denied. In 2019, there was a hearing with commissioners who said that they were directing POS to do a plan for phasing out chemicals but instead they have increased the usage.

Cemex, the #1 polluter, by far, in BC and #4 in CO whose mining permit was expiring after 25 years September 30, 2022. This was a unique opportunity to get the high polluting plant in our county closed. Instead BC POS partnered with Cemex on a proposal to extend their mine 15 years in exchange for \$17 in land and money. Luckily the commissioners saw the woefully inadequate application without public health or environmental

health impact studies and the fact that it ignored the county's own Sustainability Plan of reducing carbons by 2030 and rejected the proposal.

**We need to ask BOCO to Please continue with this plan to phase out chemicals in our county as the community wants to do our part in helping climate crisis and steward our own land well.**