



Eduardo Castañeda-Díaz (D)

On Tuesday, the Washington State Department of Agriculture issued a statement that said “preventing pesticide misuse and drift is a critically important issue for the WSDA, the public and industry” and that it “recognizes that pesticide drift cases involving human exposure disproportionately affect farmworkers, and believe that a more robust training and compliance program will help reduce that risk.”

This summer, 52 farmworkers, near Mattawa, experienced sore throats, difficulty breathing, nausea and vomiting after they were sprayed by toxic pesticide drift by B&R Aerial Crop Care.

I traveled to Mattawa, this summer, and listened to the grievances of these hard-working agricultural workers, who are tired of injustice and of being treated as disposable.

Despite these valid health and safety concerns, set forth by the WSDA, the Capital Press reported yesterday that Tom was “concerned the department was moving toward “heavy-handed regulation.”

Tom said, “I’m not sure where this is coming from. I feel like we’re getting set up. We’re not supporting our producers.”

Tom worked as a pesticide application pilot for three decades, accepted campaign contributions from B&R Aerial Crop Care, a few weeks before the Mattawa incident; and despite these conflicts of interest, is allowed to head the state’s pesticide safety committee, while advocating for less safety for those that work our crops—against the recommendation of the state’s department of agriculture.

In April, Tom wrote a letter to our Governor advocating for less protective COVID-19 regulations, insisting that Washington’s farmworkers would be at less risk of developing COVID-19 complications because, in his non-scientific opinion, they were “disproportionately young and strong.” Yeah, Tom, tell that to the families of the workers that have died.

A representative for any community should have connections and empathy for all those who call it home, not just the wealthy few. I see a troubling lack of care and concern from Tom towards at-risk workers in our community, particularly those who have lost livelihoods, wellbeing, and family members due to reckless inaction concerning protections at work and care for those affected.



Tom Dent (R)

Tom Dent represents the 13th District and is running for reelection. Representative Dent was sworn into office in 2015 and his dedication to public service continues to be evident to the residents of Lincoln, Kittitas, Grant and Yakima counties.

Representative Dent, “We are in unprecedented times with COVID-19. There is real fear looming around a recession, reduced access to public education, homelessness, food security, and wildfires. My legislative priorities were formulated from actively listening to the community over the last several years and I am dedicated to fulfilling my legislative responsibilities. Understanding the needs and concerns of my voting constituents helps me to be an effective legislator.” My legislative priorities include:

- 1) providing enhancements to early education and human services to reduce learning gaps amongst our most sensitive populations
- 2) maintaining and developing our water resources, agriculture infrastructure and supporting our ag producers.
- 3) Improving the health of our forests and rangelands to prevent costly catastrophic wildfires.
- 4) Transportation infrastructure, as the most trade dependent state in the nation, keeping our trade lanes open is paramount to our future.

“This is not the time to make plans we cannot implement. As your representative, I pledge to work across the aisle to avoid stagnation in legislative decision-making because frankly, party politics will only get in the way to our immediate need to adapt to change quickly and form public-private partnerships to increase trade, construct necessary water supply infrastructure, and ensure food is available and accessible to all” says Representative Dent.

He further states “I genuinely care about providing a safe and positive environment for young people, especially as they are experiencing isolation and uncertainty from COVID-19 mandates; we must find opportunities for their success”. I currently serve as the ranking member on the Human Services and Early Learning Committee, as the assistant ranking member of the Rural Development, Ag and Natural Resources Committee, and on the Transportation Committee. I also serve on several special legislative committees and caucuses.

To learn more about me and my legislative priorities and experience as your 13th District representative visit my website at www.tomdent.us.