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Clean Air Carolina Applauds NC DEQ Action on Methyl Bromide Fumigation

RALEIGH, N.C. – Clean Air Carolina (CAC) applauds the action taken by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Air Quality (DEQ) on July 26, 2018 to take comprehensive measures to protect the health of communities exposed to methyl bromide, a highly toxic chemical and hazardous air pollutant used in log fumigation operations.

The move comes after CAC, the Southern Environmental Law Center, the North Carolina Conservation Network, the Sierra Club and other environmental and community groups voiced opposition to the chemical being used for fumigation at plants located near communities and a school in Delco, N.C. Methyl bromide is considered a "super pollutant" because of its combined health and environmental impacts.

"This is important because it shows that when communities and advocates speak out DEQ listens and works to protect public health," said Rachel McIntosh-Kastrinsky, manager of the CAC program, Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, a network of more than 900 medical and healthcare professionals across the state. "We are thrilled that DEQ is taking the initiative to be the first state that is working on regulations to limit the emission of a chemical that can have dire health effects on the surrounding community. We also appreciate DEQ's active engagement and response to community members and groups on this important local issue."

Clean Air Carolina is a nonprofit organization based in Charlotte, NC with a satellite office in the Triangle. Our mission is to ensure cleaner air quality for all North Carolinians through education and advocacy and by working with our partners to reduce sources of pollution.