

October 3, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Environment
and Public Works
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper,

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of Dr. Michael Dourson to be confirmed as the next Assistant Administrator of the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We ask the Environment and Public Works Committee to move swiftly to confirm his nomination.

The agriculture community is reliant on safe and effective crop protection tools to manage the pests, pathogens and weeds that negatively impact our crops each year. These products require rigorous assessment and evaluation by the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), under OCSPP, in order to be registered and re-registered for use. In order to ensure that farmers have access to the innovation needed to meet our growing food demand, it is imperative that OPP has the staff and expertise needed as well as engaged and knowledgeable Assistant Administrator at OCSPP to oversee and provide direction to the process.

Fortunately, Dr. Dourson's background makes him extremely qualified for the role of OCSPP Assistant Administrator. He has extensive experience in risk assessment and toxicology, as an academic, government regulator and in the private sectors. While at EPA, he was awarded the Arnold J. Lehman award from the Society of Toxicology (SOT) and the International Achievement Award by the International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology. He is also a fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and a fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA).

The knowledge and expertise that Dr. Michael Dourson would bring to the role of OCSPP Assistant Administrator would be welcomed by the agriculture community. Again, we respectfully request that the Committee move to confirm his nomination so that he may be considered by the full Senate at the earliest date possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
AmericanHort
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
California Fresh Fruit Association

California Specialty Crops Council
Cranberry Institute
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
National Barley Growers Association
National Christmas Tree Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Society of American Florists
Texas Citrus Mutual
USApple
US Canola Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice
U.S. Rice Producers Association