

May 8, 2018

The Honorable Mike Conaway
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway:

We write to thank you for your leadership on a number of Farm Bill provisions regarding pesticide use, which are critical to the continued success of American agriculture and the public health and safety of all Americans. We represent a variety of public and private sector organizations including agriculture producer groups and suppliers, as well as non-agricultural users of pesticides — all of whom benefit from an exhaustive regulatory system that provides certainty that allows technology providers to continue investments in innovation to meet the need for modern pest control tools.

Specifically, we would like to recognize the work you and your staff have done to address key issues within Title IX of the Farm Bill which relate to the registration and use of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA):

- A fix for the duplicative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirement as passed by the House of Representatives in 2017 and numerous times before then
- Reauthorization of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) as passed by the House of Representatives in 2017
- Much needed improvements to species consultation and the pesticide registration process under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)
- Recognition of the exclusive role of State Lead Agencies
- Language on cooperative federalism advancing states as coregulators in the federal regulatory process

The reforms included in the 2018 Farm Bill would increase the global competitiveness of American agriculture, encourage much needed innovation, and reduce costs to American farmers and ranchers and other users of pesticides at a time when they can least afford it. We thank the House Agriculture Committee for their leadership in authoring these important provisions, and we are committed to working with you to advance these imperative reforms.

Thank you,

Agricultural Retailers Association

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Mushroom Institute

AmericanHort

Association of Equipment Manufacturers

Aquatic Plant Management Society

California Specialty Crops Council

Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology

CropLife America

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Minor Crop Farmer Alliance

National Ag Aviation Association

National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants

National Alliance of Forest Owners

National Association of Landscape Professionals

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

National Christmas Tree Association

National Cotton Council

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Onion Association

National Pest Management Association

National Sorghum Producers

North Central Weed Science Society

Northeastern Weed Science Society

Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment

Society of American Florists

Southern Crop Production Association

Southern Weed Science Society

USA Rice

Weed Science Society of America

Western Society of Weed Science