

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-146, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Chair Granger, Chair Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, and Vice Chair Collins:

We write to express our great concern with recent misinterpretations of long-standing policy regarding the regulation and labeling of pesticide products, as some states have begun to regulate pesticides in a manner contradicting decades of scientific guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Lack of certainty on EPA-approved, science-based nationwide labels will erode access to current and future pesticides, threatening crops and grower incomes, conservation practices, public health, vital infrastructure, and ultimately raise food prices for families amidst record-high inflation. Growers and users need reaffirmation from Congress that while states have authority to regulate the sale and use of pesticides within their jurisdiction, they cannot impose labeling or packaging requirements in addition or different from the scientific conclusions of the EPA. To that end, we support and urge Congress to include Sec. 461 of the FY 2024 House Interior Appropriations bill in the final FY 2024 conferenced appropriations bill which would reaffirm federal pesticide labeling uniformity and prevent state and local governments from adopting inconsistent labeling or packaging which would disrupt commerce and access to these vital tools.

The last several years have demonstrated how fragile our food production and infrastructure systems can be. Whether driven by war in Ukraine, extreme weather events, or COVID-19 disruptions, our economic wellbeing and access to a safe, affordable food supply relies on many factors. Pesticides are an essential tool for many growers and other users whose operations rely on them, and for consumers and our environment which benefit from their use. If left unchecked, some pests can inflict crop yield losses greater than 80 percent, destroy important infrastructure, harm public health through mosquito-borne disease or other outbreaks, among other harms. Additionally, pesticides are essential to maintaining and expanding vital conservation practices, such as cover crops or tillage reductions, which remove the equivalent of millions of cars from roadways annually, reduce soil erosion, and prevent nutrient loss to watersheds. Without access to safe, effective pesticides regulated with the best available science, food prices for American families will rise significantly and our ability to protect public health, infrastructure, and our environment will be greatly diminished.

Disturbingly, we are seeing in states an emerging threat that risks access to these essential tools on which farmers and other users rely. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the primary statute governing pesticides, places EPA in the authority to make foundational, science-based decisions on how pesticides can be labeled and used. States are permitted to regulate the sale and use of pesticides under FIFRA but are preempted from

requiring additional or different pesticide labels or packaging. Nevertheless, in recent years we have seen actions from states that directly and unjustifiably contradict EPA's scientific findings on pesticide safety. These actions risk creating an unworkable, inconsistent patchwork of state or municipal pesticide labels that can quickly disrupt commerce and access to these much-needed tools. As concerning, this threatens to jeopardize public confidence in EPA's authority and science-based regulation under FIFRA, as well as the continued availability of individual tools on which there are contradictory claims.

We urge Congress to seriously consider the far-reaching implications should this uncertainty go unaddressed by federal policymakers. The ability of farmers, land managers, and other users to produce an abundant food, feed, and fiber supply, combat public health threats, implement important conservation practices, and maintain vital transportation and utility infrastructure will be significantly impaired. In turn, food prices will further increase for families; important infrastructure will fall into disrepair; our population will be increasingly vulnerable to vector-borne diseases; and our ability to combat climate change and other environmental challenges will be undermined. We strongly urge Congress to include Section 461 of the FY2024 House Interior Appropriations bill in the final conferenced appropriations bill, reaffirm that EPA is the primary, federal authority under FIFRA for making pesticide findings and decisions, and that states may regulate their use, but not impose additional labeling or packaging requirements. Congressional action on this important matter will ensure our nation's farmers and other users have reliable access to these vital tools in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Agricultural Retailers Association
Alabama Agribusiness Council
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Soybean & Corn Association
Alaska Farm Bureau
Almond Alliance
American Agri-Women
American Cotton Producers
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Dairy Coalition
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Horse Council
American Pistachio Growers
American Seed Trade Association
American Society of Agronomy
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugar Cane League
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
AmericanHort
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Arizona Cotton Growers Association
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation

Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation
Arkansas Rice Federation
Arkansas Rice Growers Association
Arkansas Soybean Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
California Agricultural Irrigation Association
California Alfalfa and Forage Association
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Bean Shippers Association
California Cattlemen's Association
California Cherry Growers and Industry Association
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Association
California Farm Bureau
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Grain & Feed Association
California Pear Growers
California Pork Producers Association
California Rice Commission
California Seed Association
California Specialty Crops Council
California State Floral Association
California Sweetpotato Council
California Warehouse Association
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative
Cherry Marketing Institute
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Chapter Sports Turf Managers Association
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Colorado Livestock Association
Colorado Potato Legislative Association
Connecticut Environmental Council
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association
Corn Growers Association of North Carolina
Corn Refiners Association
Cotton Warehouse Association of America
Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology
CropLife America
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Delaware Farm Bureau
Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association
Delta Council
Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations
Empire State Potato Growers
Far West Agribusiness Association
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Farm Bureau Federation

Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Cotton Commission
Georgia Farm Bureau
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Georgia Urban Agriculture Council
Georgia/Florida Soybean Association
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Hawaii Crop Improvement Association
Hawaii Farm Bureau
Hop Growers of America
Hop Growers of Washington
Idaho Alfalfa Clover Seed Commission
Idaho Alfalfa Clover Seed Growers Association
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Idaho Hay and Forage Association
Idaho Honey Industry Association
Idaho Hop Growers Association
Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association
Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association
Idaho Oilseed Commission
Idaho Onion Growers Association
Idaho Pest Management Association
Idaho-Eastern Oregon Seed Association
Idaho-Oregon Seed Pesticide Council
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association
Illinois Soybean Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Farm Bureau
Indiana Soybean Alliance
International Certified Crop Advisers
International Fresh Produce Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Farm Bureau
Iowa Soybean Association
Iowa Sports Field Management Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Cotton Association
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Pork Association

Kansas Soybean Association
Kentucky Corn Growers Association
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association
Kentucky Soybean Association
Louisiana Agricultural Consultants Association
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Maine Farm Bureau
Maine Potato Board
Malheur County Onion Growers Association
Maryland Farm Bureau
Maryland Grain Producers Association
Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Apple Association
Michigan Asparagus Association
Michigan Bean Commission
Michigan Bean Shippers
Michigan Corn Growers Association
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Soybean Association
Michigan State Horticultural Society
Michigan Vegetable Council
Mid Atlantic Soybean Association
Mid-Atlantic Sports Field Management Association
Midwest Council on Agriculture
Midwest Food Products Association
Midwest Forage Association
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
Minnesota Area II Potato Growers Council
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers
Minnesota Barley Growers Association
Minnesota Canola Council
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Minor Crop Farmer Alliance
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Agribusiness Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Farm Bureau
Missouri Pork Association
Missouri Rice Council
Missouri Soybean Association
Montana Agricultural Business Association
Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Montana Grain Growers Association

National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
National Asparagus Council
National Association of Landscape Professionals
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Black Growers Council
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Milk Producers Federation
National Onion Association
National Pecan Federation
National Pest Management Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
National Turkey Federation
National Watermelon Association
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Nebraska Corn Growers Association
Nebraska Dry Bean Commission
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation
Nebraska Soybean Association
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
New England Sports Turf Managers Association
New Hampshire Farm Bureau
New Jersey Farm Bureau
New Jersey Green Industry Council
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau
New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association
New York Farm Bureau
New York Green Industry Council
New York State Agribusiness Association
New York State Vegetable Growers Association
Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association
North American Blueberry Council
North Carolina Christmas Tree Association
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association
North Carolina Egg Association
North Carolina Farm Bureau
North Carolina Peanut Growers Association
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association
North Carolina Sports Field Management Association
North Carolina State Grange
North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission

North Central Weed Science Society
North Dakota Agricultural Association
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Farm Bureau
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
Northharvest Bean Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance
Northeast Dairy Producers Association
Northeastern Weed Science Society
Northern Canola Growers Association
Northern Pulse Growers Association
Northland Potato Growers Association
Northwest Agricultural Cooperative Council
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Ohio Soybean Association
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association
Oklahoma Agricultural Aviation Association
Oklahoma Cotton Council
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Oklahoma Sorghum Growers
Oklahoma Soybean Association
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Hop Growers Association
Oregon Potato Commission
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Oregonians for Food and Shelter
Pacific Coast Renderers Association
Pacific Egg & Poultry Association
Pacific Northwest Canola Association
Pacific Seed Association
Palmetto AgriBusiness Council
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
PennAg Industries Association
Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers
Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
Potato Growers of Michigan, Inc
Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania
Public Lands Council
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association
Rhode Island Farm Bureau Federation

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association
Society of American Florists
South Carolina Corn and Soybean Association
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
South Carolina Peach Council
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
South Dakota Dairy Producers (SDDP)
South Dakota Farm Bureau
South Dakota Farmers Union
South Dakota Poultry Industries Association
South Dakota Soybean Association
South Dakota Wheat Growers Association
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.
Southern Crop Production Association
Southern Idaho Potato Cooperative, Inc.
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association
Southern Weed Science Society
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Sports Field Management Association
Synergistic Hawaii Agriculture Council
Tennessee Corn Growers Association
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas Association of Dairymen
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Corn Producers Association
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Grain Sorghum Association
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Soybean Association
Texas Wheat Producers Association
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Durum Growers Association
U.S. Peanut Federation
United Egg Producers
United Potato Growers of America
US Rice Producers Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice
Vegetation Management Association of Kentucky
Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance
Vermont Farm Bureau
Vermont Feed Dealers and Manufacturers Association
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Cattlemen's Association

Virginia Cotton Growers
Virginia Farm Bureau
Virginia Grain Producers Association
Virginia Peanut Growers Association
Virginia Poultry Federation
Virginia Soybean Association
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington Blueberry Commission
Washington Farm Bureau
Washington Friends of Farms and Forests
Washington Mint Growers Association
Washington Oilseeds Commission
Washington Policy Center's Center for Agriculture
Washington Potato & Onion Association
Washington State Dairy Federation
Washington State Potato Commission
Weed Science Society of America
West Virginia Farm Bureau
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Alfalfa Seed Growers Association
Western Growers
Western Peanut Growers Association
Western Plant Health Association
Western Society of Weed Science
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Wisconsin Pork Association
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association
Wisconsin Soybean Association
Wyoming Ag Business Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau

CC:

The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mike Simpson, Chair, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Chair, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Ranking Member, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee