

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