

February XX, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Thune, Leader Jeffries, and Leader Schumer,

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 farmer incomes, conservation practices, public health, vital infrastructure, and ultimately raise food prices for families amidst 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 enact H.R. XXXX, the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act, bipartisan legislation which would reaffirm federal pesticide labeling uniformity and prevent states 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, avian influenza 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 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.

To that end, we strongly urge Congress to enact H.R. XXXX, the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act. This important legislation will reaffirm that EPA is the primary, federal authority under FIFRA for making pesticide findings and decisions. While states will continue to regulate and provide registrations for additional uses of federally registered pesticide products, as provided by FIFRA sections 24(a) and 24(c), this legislation will reaffirm that they may 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,