

June 6, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chair Shelby, Chairman Merkley and Ranking Member Murkowski:

The undersigned organizations represent agriculture, food, fiber, public health, pest management, landscape, environmental, and related industries, including small businesses and state departments of agriculture, who support sound science and the risk-based regulation of pesticides. To ensure the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) has the resources necessary to register pesticides, we write to request **\$163 million** in funding be included in the FY 2023 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Pesticides are vital to the protection of America's public health, infrastructure, and natural resources and to providing America with food, fiber, and fuel, while assisting to achieve critical sustainability goals. Those engaged with these products must have the assurance of a federal regulatory process that supports science and innovation, along with safety and efficacy. Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA/OPP provides for federal regulation of pesticide distribution, sale, and use and stringent safety standards and oversight. OPP specifically considers economic, social, and environmental benefits and risks for all pesticide products before they are made available for sale and use.

Prior to 2004, the process of approving a pesticide product for use could take an indeterminate amount of time – potentially threatening the nation's public health, food, and environment. By passing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA), and reauthorizing the Act in 2007, 2012, and 2019, Congress created industry fees that provide additional resources for EPA's registration efforts, established a more predictable evaluation process, and provided resources for important worker protection safety and training activities. Federal regulation of pesticide products is necessary because it provides a rigorous, scientific basis for product efficacy and safety, as well as giving confidence in the products and their application. The increased funding supports business predictability within the pesticide registration process and gives established timelines for bringing new products to the market.

We appreciate the Subcommittee's funding of \$129.3 million in FY 2022 for PRIA-related activities in OPP. The President's Budget for FY 2023 funds PRIA-related activities at \$138 million. We request **\$163 million**, allocated among the following accounts: **\$144 million** for Environmental Programs and Management; **\$6.153 million** for Science and Technology; and **\$14.027 million** for State and Tribal Assistance Grants. We also request \$1.7 million for pesticide consultation for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Pesticide manufacturers, pesticide users, and the public all have an interest in ensuring that the pesticide regulatory process imposes regulatory controls on pesticide use based on the principles of sound science, transparency, and broad stakeholder engagement. We need EPA to be fully resourced to ensure we have access to tools continue to protect the public and our environment while maintaining America's important food, fiber, and biofuel production and protecting its public health and infrastructure. We urge you to provide the funding requested.

Sincerely,

CC: Members of the Subcommittee

American Mosquito Control Association  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Seed Trade Association  
Aquatic Plant Management Society  
California Farm Bureau  
Council of Producers and Distributors of Agrotechnology  
CropLife America  
Delta Council  
Far West Agribusiness Association  
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association  
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America  
Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council  
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers  
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants  
National Association of Landscape Professionals  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Association of Wheat Growers  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Onion Association  
National Pest Management Association  
National Potato Council  
North Dakota Grain Growers Association  
Ohio Agribusiness Association  
Oregonians for Food and Shelter  
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents Association  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
Southern Crop Production Association

Texas Ag Industries Association  
Texas Vegetation Management Association  
U.S. Canola Association  
USA Rice  
Weed Science Society of America  
Western Growers  
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association  
Wyoming Ag Business Association