



PPC

PESTICIDE POLICY COALITION
A Coalition Working for Sound Pest Management Policies

April 18, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Conaway:

The Pesticide Policy Coalition (PPC) applauds the House Agriculture Committee and Chairman Mike Conaway on the introduction of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill. The nation's farm economy has suffered greatly over the past several years. American net farm income dropped from \$120 billion in 2013 to an estimated \$62 billion in 2017. The challenging financial situation in U.S. agriculture underscores the need for Farm Bill that provides a strong farm safety net, improved access in key foreign markets, continued investments in research, and reduced regulatory burdens that increase the costs of farming.

The PPC is an organization that represents food, agriculture, forestry, pest management and related organizations that support transparent, fair and science-based regulation of pest management. PPC members include: national and regional farm, commodity, specialty crop, and silviculture organizations; cooperatives; food processors and marketers; pesticide manufacturers, formulators and distributors; pest- and vector-control operators and applicators; research organizations; state regulatory agencies; and other interested parties. The PPC is pleased to see several key reform efforts included in the 2018 Farm Bill including a fix for the duplicative National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirement, reauthorization of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) as passed by the House of Representatives in 2017, much needed improvements to the pesticide registration process under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), recognition of the exclusive role of State Lead Agencies, and language on cooperative federalism advancing states as co-regulators in the federal regulatory process.

Farming is an inherently unpredictable business which makes certainty in the regulatory space all the more important. The reforms included in the 2018 Farm Bill would increase the global competitiveness of American agriculture, encourage much needed innovation, and reduce costs on American farmers and ranchers at a time when they can least afford it. We thank the House Agriculture Committee for their leadership in authoring the 2018 Farm Bill and look forward to working with the Committee as it begins its mark up this week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Renee Munasifi".

Renee Munasifi

Chair, Pesticide Policy Coalition

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beau Greenwood".

Beau Greenwood

Vice Chair, Pesticide Policy Coalition