

February 25, 2019

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

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

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Conaway:

We write to express our support for legislation that would reauthorize the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA). Similar legislation passed the House twice during the 115th Congress and a new bill passed the Senate February 14, 2019. This legislation was first enacted in 2004 – and has been reauthorized twice—each time with bipartisan support in Congress, support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and support from a broad and diverse group of stakeholders and companies. PRIA has been instrumental in ensuring a strong and functioning regulatory system, in protecting public health and safety, and in ensuring that farmers have new, innovative, tools to combat modern pests.

The authorization for this program ended February 15, 2019. Without action now to reauthorize this important law: (1) The pesticide registration timelines established by the law that created a level of certainty and accountability within the registration process will cease to exist; (2) the collection of user fees that support the program will stop—requiring EPA to lay-off over 200 staff responsible for reviewing and approving pesticide registrations, and (3) resources for worker safety training and education programs will be lost. In short, failure to reauthorize PRIA will mean less innovation for farmers, more delays, and reduced public safety. We need this law now.

As our farmers prepare for this year's crop season, we are already facing low market prices, trade disruptions, and weather volatility. Congress can remove one area of uncertainty by passing a long-term reauthorization of PRIA. We respectfully ask that the House quickly approve the PRIA bill which passed the Senate on February 14, 2019. We stand ready to provide you any assistance that you may need. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association

Biotechnology Innovation Organization

CropLife America

National Association of Wheat Growers

National Cotton Council

National Farmers Union

United Fresh Produce Association

USA Rice

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture