

December 18, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and
Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and
Forestry
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear :

Our organizations appreciate and applaud your work on the 2018 Farm Bill and congratulate you on the broad bipartisan support by which the bill was adopted in the House and Senate. We look forward to working with you in the year ahead to implement this landmark bill. This important legislation goes to great lengths to address the uncertainty in the agriculture economy, however there is another outstanding issue also of importance to the agriculture community that we hope the Congress will address before adjournment of the 115th.

We write today to respectfully urge that Congress complete work on the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018 (PRIA). The reauthorization of PRIA is essential in ensuring that growers and users of pesticides have timely access to products that help them produce the food, fuel, and fiber the world depends on.

We are grateful for the work Congress has undertaken to extend PRIA since it expired in 2017. These short-term extensions have prevented expiration of the program, but long-term authorization is needed to provide the assurance that EPA requires to hire and maintain staff to carry out its important mission within the Office of Pesticide Programs. Without the certainty that PRIA provides, the EPA faces staffing shortages which hamper the ability to bring innovative pest control solutions to our growers and other users and can hinder EPA's ability to meet important registration and reregistration deadlines.

While we greatly appreciated that Congress has extended PRIA 3 to prevent expiration of the program, stakeholders, including the EPA need a long-term solution. PRIA 4 provides important new provisions, increasing and clarifying categories of pesticide actions covered, increasing fees for both registration and registration review which reduce burdens on the taxpayer, and protects funds for grant programs, while increasing transparency and stakeholder engagement by ensuring grant programs meet measurable goals.

As our farmers and pesticide users look towards 2019 facing challenges from trade, low crop prices, and weather variability, we hope that Congress can remove other areas of uncertainty by passing a long-term reauthorization of PRIA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Iowa

Agricultural Council of Arkansas

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agricultural Retailers Association

Alabama Agribusiness Council

Almond Alliance of California

American Mushroom Institute

American Pulse Association

American Seed Trade Association

American Soybean Association

American Sugarbeet Growers Association

AmericanHort

Arizona Agricultural Aviation Association

Aquatic Plant Management Society

Arkansas Agricultural Aviation Association

Association of Montana Aerial Applicators

Association of Washington Aerial Applicators

California Association of Pest Control Advisers

California Citrus Mutual

California Fresh Fruit Association

California Specialty Crops Council

Cherry Marketing Institute

Colorado Agricultural Aviation Association

Cranberry Institute

Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association

Delta Council

Far West Agribusiness Association

Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Florida Tomato Exchange
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Agricultural Aviation Association
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
Hop Growers of America
Illinois Agricultural Aviation Association
Illinois Chemical and Fertilizer Association
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Illinois Soybean Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Iowa Agri-Business Association
Iowa Corn Growers Association
Iowa Soybean Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kentucky Corn Growers
Kentucky Small Grain Growers
Louisiana Agricultural Aviation Association
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Agricultural Aviation Association
Michigan Bean Shippers
Midwest Food Products Association
Minnesota Agricultural Aircraft Association
Minnesota Corn Growers Association
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Minor Crop Farmer Alliance
Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association

Missouri Agribusiness Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Montana Agricultural Business Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
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 Christmas Tree Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Onion Association
National Pest Management Association
National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
New Mexico Agricultural Aviation Association
New York State Agribusiness Association
North Carolina Agribusiness Council
North Dakota Agricultural Aviation Association
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association
Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers Association
Oklahoma Agricultural Aviation Association
Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Pacific Northwest Vegetable Association
Pennsylvania Pest Management Association
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Society of American Florists
South Carolina Agricultural Aviation Association
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Aviation Association
South Dakota Corn Growers Association
Tennessee Agricultural Aviation Association
Texas Citrus Mutual
United Fresh Produce Association
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Dry Bean Council
U.S. Hop Industry Plant Protection Committee
Washington Asparagus Commission
Washington Blueberry Commission
Washington Friends of Farms & Forests
Washington State Hay Growers Association
Washington State Potato Commission
Western Growers
Western Plant Health Association
Weed Science Society of America
Wisconsin Agri-Business Association
Wisconsin Corn Growers Association
Wyoming Ag Business Association
Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission