

November 19, 2021

The Honorable Michael Regan  
Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

We are deeply concerned with recent actions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) and Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) regarding various crop protection tools and the process EPA used to facilitate those actions. Further, we seek your assurance that future EPA actions related to the registration or registration review of crop protection tools will be conducted consistent with the science-based, regulatory process required under EPA's congressionally-mandated authorities.

As fundamental as our request for your assurances may seem, it is unfortunately necessary due to EPA's concerning trend of disregarding scientifically-sound, risk-based regulatory processes, such as EPA's recent decision to ignore the safety findings of its own career scientist and revoke all food tolerances for chlorpyrifos.

EPA's decided path not only undermines the scientifically rigorous work of the Agency, it removes a critical crop protection tool without readily available alternatives and creates a great deal of uncertainty for growers. Furthermore, it undermines confidence in the scientific integrity of EPA's pesticide registration and registration review regulatory processes.

EPA's blatant disregard for the work of its career scientists and the significant confusion the Agency's decision has created for producers, channels of trade, and our nation's food supply has inserted further uncertainty and stress for producers attempting to navigate the nation's growing supply-chain problems at a time when producers are making key planting and purchasing decisions on hundreds of millions of acres for the 2022 growing season. The significance of the supply chain problems and impacts to the producers and rural communities cannot be overstated.

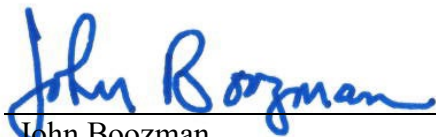
As such, we request EPA rescind its August 2021 final rule revoking food tolerances for chlorpyrifos and proceed with reviewing current uses under its ongoing registration review of this chemistry. At a bare minimum, EPA should delay the effective date of its August 2021 final rule until the Agency has provided complete and final answers to the regulated community on the phase out implementation of this critical crop protection tool.

Unfortunately, our concerns are not limited to this single chemistry, they extend to the dangerous posture EPA seems to be taking on the valuable tools stakeholders and producers rely upon every day to produce the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. EPA's recent biological evaluations (BEs) for glyphosate, atrazine, and simazine finding "likely to adversely affect" one or more species under the Endangered Species Act is yet another example of the Agency departing from a science-driven, risk-based approach to conducting this critical

work and instead, embracing a “precautionary principal” approach to the Agency’s work. Equally alarming are current industry reports of EPA political officials signaling future harmful actions relating to various herbicides and other crop protection tools. If accurate, these reports indicate another EPA end-run around its own scientific and regulatory process contrary to the Agency’s congressionally-mandated, science-driven, and risk-based registration or registration review process.

Given these concerns, we seek your assurance that, going forward, EPA will not depart from its science-driven, risk-based, congressionally-mandated registration or registration review process of critical crop protection tools at a time when the supply chain is failing, availability of crop protection tools and other inputs is becoming more and more scarce, and record inflation is driving up the cost of production and, in turn, the cost of food for the consumer.

Sincerely,



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John Boozman  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
Nutrition, and Forestry



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Glenn ‘GT’ Thompson (PA-15)  
Republican Leader  
House Committee on Agriculture



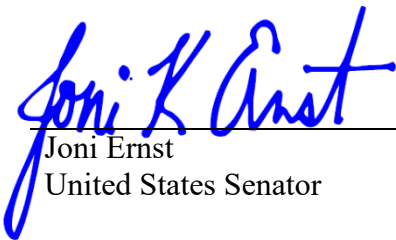
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John Hoeven  
United States Senator



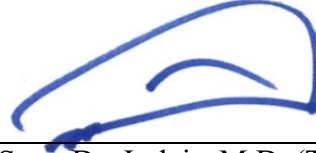
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Austin Scott (GA-08)  
Member of Congress



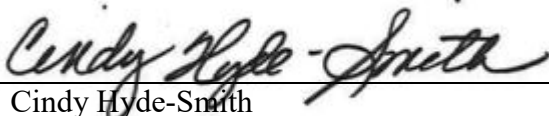
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Joni Ernst  
United States Senator



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Scott DesJarlais, M.D. (TN-04)  
Member of Congress



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Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senator



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Vicky Hartzler (MO-04)  
Member of Congress



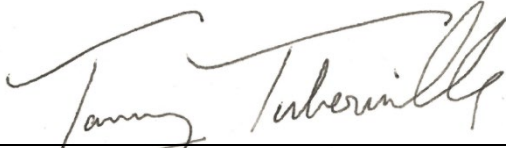
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Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator



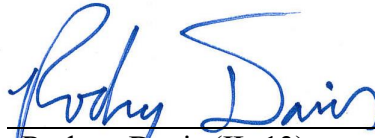
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Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)  
Member of Congress



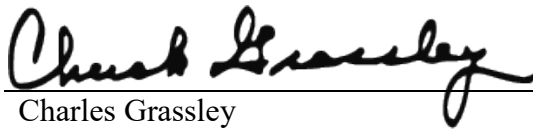
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Tommy Tuberville  
United States Senator



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Rodney Davis (IL-13)  
Member of Congress



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Charles Grassley  
United States Senator



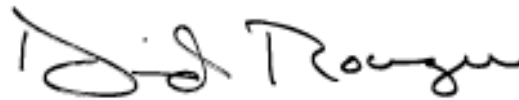
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Rick W. Allen (GA-12)  
Member of Congress



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John Thune  
United States Senator



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David Rouzer (NC-07)  
Member of Congress



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Deb Fischer  
United States Senator




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Trent Kelly (MS-01)  
Member of Congress



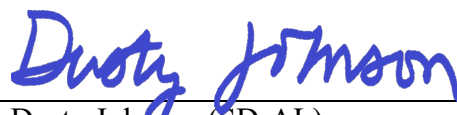
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Mike Braun  
United States Senator



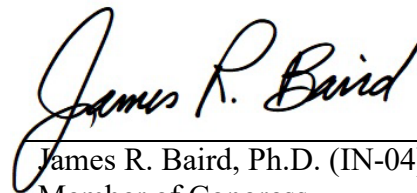
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Don Bacon (NE-02)  
Member of Congress



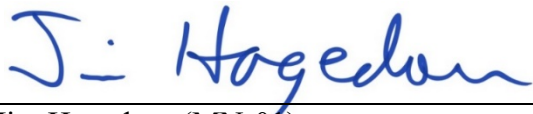
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Dusty Johnson (SD-AL)  
Member of Congress



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James R. Baird, Ph.D. (IN-04)  
Member of Congress



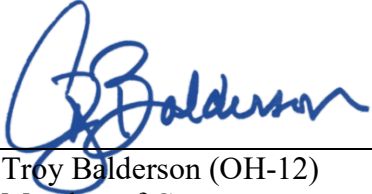
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Jim Hagedorn (MN-01)  
Member of Congress



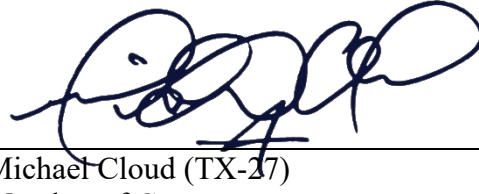
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Chris Jacobs (NY-27)  
Member of Congress



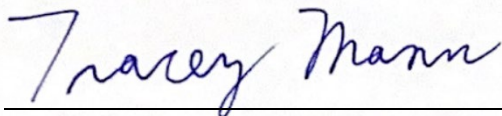
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Troy Balderson (OH-12)  
Member of Congress



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Michael Cloud (TX-27)  
Member of Congress



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Tracey Mann (KS-01)  
Member of Congress



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Randy Feenstra (IA-04)  
Member of Congress



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Mary E. Miller (IL-15)  
Member of Congress



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Barry Moore (AL-02)  
Member of Congress



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Kat Cammack (FL-03)  
Member of Congress



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Michelle Fischbach (MN-07)  
Member of Congress



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Julia Letlow, Ph.D. (LA-05)  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture