



*Submitted via Federal eRulemaking Portal*

June 21, 2016

Ms. Richard Dumas  
Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division (7508P)  
Office of Pesticide Programs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington DC 20460

Re: **Docket ID No: EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0794 (Draft Ecological Risk Assessments: Atrazine, Simazine, and Propazine Registration Review)**

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) respectfully requests an extension to the comment period of at least **sixty (60) days** to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) draft ecological risk assessments for the registration review of atrazine, propazine, and simazine.

NASDA represents the Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of the state departments of agriculture in all fifty states and four U.S. territories. State departments of agriculture are responsible for a wide range of programs including food safety, combating the spread of disease, and fostering the economic vitality of our rural communities. Conservation and environmental protection are also among our chief responsibilities. In forty-three states and Puerto Rico, the state department of agriculture is the lead state agency responsible for the regulation of pesticide use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

More than 400,000 U.S. corn, sorghum and sugar cane growers depend on this essential crop protection tool, which is one of the most scrutinized and examined pesticides in the world. Atrazine's safety has been established in nearly 7,000 scientific studies over the past fifty years, and we are requesting an extension of at least 60 days in order to provide the state departments of agriculture adequate time to review and formulate informed responses to the voluminous draft ecological risk assessments under this registration review.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Dudley Hoskins ([dudley@nasda.org](mailto:dudley@nasda.org)) if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Bowen", followed by a horizontal line.

**Nathan Bowen**  
*Director, Public Policy*  
NASDA