

February 15, 2017

Members of House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The over 100 undersigned organizations **urge your support for HR 953, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017**, at *tomorrow's business meeting* of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Pesticide users are subjected to the court-created requirement that lawful applications over, to or near 'waters of the U.S.' obtain a Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Pesticide General Permit (PGP) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or delegated states. HR 953 would clarify that federal law does not require this redundant permit for pesticide applications already authorized under federal pesticide law.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), all pesticides are reviewed and regulated for use with strict instructions on the EPA-approved product label. A thorough scientific review and accounting of impacts to water quality and aquatic species is included in every EPA review. Requiring water permits of federally regulated pesticide applications is *redundant* and provides no additional environmental benefit.

Compliance with the NPDES water permit also imposes duplicative resource burdens on thousands of small businesses and farms, as well as the municipal, county, state and federal agencies responsible for protecting natural resources and public health. Further, and most menacing, the permit *exposes all pesticide users*, regardless of permit eligibility, *to the liability of CWA-based citizen law suits.*

In the last three sessions of Congress, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act passed the House Committees on Agriculture and Transportation & Infrastructure, then went on to pass the full House of Representatives. We urge you to **remove this unneeded regulatory duplication by again voting "YES" on HR 953, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017.**

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agricultural Retailers Association

Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona

Alabama Agribusiness Council

Agricultural Alliance of North Carolina

American Farm Bureau Federation

Agricultural Council of Arkansas

Alabama Farmers Federation

Alabama Forestry Association	Family Farm Alliance
American Mosquito Control Association	Far West Agribusiness Association
American Soybean Association	Florida Farm Bureau Federation
AmericanHort	Florida Forestry Association
Aquatic Plant Management Society	Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Arizona Nursery Association	Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association
Arkansas Forestry Association	Georgia Agribusiness Council
Biopesticide Industry Alliance	Georgia Green Industry Association
California Alfalfa and Forage Association	Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
California Association of Nurseries & Green Centers	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
California Association of Winegrape Growers	Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
California Cherry Growers and Industries Foundation	Idaho Grower Shippers Association
California Pear Growers	Idaho Potato Commission
California Seed Association	Idaho Water Users Association
California Specialty Crops Council	Illinois Farm Bureau
California State Floral Association	Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association	Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association	Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association
The Cranberry Institute	Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
CropLife America	Louisiana Forestry Association
Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology	Maine Arborist Association
	Maine Landscape and Nursery Association

Maine Potato Board	National Pest Management Association
Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association	National Potato Council
Michigan Agribusiness Association	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
Minnesota Agricultural Aircraft Association	National Water Resources Association
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers	Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Minnesota Pesticide Information & Education	North Carolina Agricultural Consultants Association
Minor Crops Farmer Alliance	North Carolina Forestry Association
Mississippi Forestry Association	North Carolina Cotton Producers Association
Missouri Agribusiness Association	North Central Weed Science Society
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation	North Dakota Agricultural Association
Missouri Green Industry Council	Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Montana Agricultural Business Association	Northeastern Weed Science Society
National Agricultural Aviation Association	Northern Plains Potato Growers Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners	Northwest Horticultural Council
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants	Ohio Professional Applicators for Responsible Regulation
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture	Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Association
National Association of Wheat Growers	Oregon Association of Nurseries
National Christmas Tree Association	Oregon Potato Commission
National Corn Growers Association	Oregonians for Food & Shelter
National Cotton Council	Pesticide Policy Coalition
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives	Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

Professional Landcare Network

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)

Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association

SC Fertilizer Agrichemicals Association

South Dakota Agri-Business Association

South Texas Cotton and Grain Association

Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.

Southern Crop Production Association

Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers

Southern Weed Science Society

Sugar Cane League

Texas Ag Industries Association

Texas Forestry Association

Texas Nursery & Landscape Association

Texas Vegetation Management Association

United Fresh Produce Association

U.S. Apple Association

USA Rice Federation

Virginia Agribusiness Council

Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association

Virginia Forestry Association

Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association

Washington Friends of Farm & Forests

Washington State Potato Commission

Weed Science Society of America

Western Growers

Western Plant Health Association

Western Society of Weed Science

Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association

Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association

Wyoming Ag Business Association

Wyoming Crop Improvement Association

Wyoming Wheat Growers Association