

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chair
Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Glenn "GT" Thompson
Chair
House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable John Boozman
Ranking Member
Senate Agriculture Committee

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee

January 10, 2024

Dear Chair Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, Chair Thompson Johnson and Ranking Member Scott,

We write to express our strong opposition to any efforts to limit longstanding state and local authority to protect people, animals, and the environment by regulating pesticides. As Congress considers legislation related to agriculture, including the reauthorization of the Farm Bill and Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills, we urge you to ensure that state, county, and local governments retain the right to protect their communities and set policies that best suit our local needs.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) establishes the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to oversee the registration, distribution, sale, and use of pesticides in the United States. Congress has long considered FIFRA to set a federal *floor* for pesticide policy, and under FIFRA, state, county, and local governments possess authority to enact supplementary standards. Hundreds of towns and cities have adopted laws and ordinances related to pesticide safety. These include laws to restrict pesticide use near schools, parks, and playgrounds, protect drinking water supplies and wildlife, provide consumers with adequate information to make informed decisions about use and exposure, and equip workers with information and tools to minimize occupational risk.

The Supreme Court has ruled that democratically elected local governments hold the power to address the specific needs of their communities. State and local governments are often best positioned to respond quickly to emerging risks within our communities, and proposals to weaken our ability to respond could have a significant impact on public safety.

H.R. 4288, the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act would forbid states from enacting and enforcing supplemental requirements for warnings or other information, such as potential antidotes. Depriving consumers of this information is harmful to the public interest, and would likely make it harder for our injured constituents to seek justice against irresponsible companies.

As the House continues its work in the 118th Congress, we urge you to reject H.R. 4288 and any harmful pesticide policy riders that would diminish local authority. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mayor Pro Tem JJ Trout, Golden, CO

Councilor Lyndsie Leech, Eugene, OR

Mayor Byron Brown, Buffalo, NY

Representative Zack Fields, 17th State House District, AK

Representative Andrew Gray, 20th State House District, AK

Senator Jesse Kiehl, Alaska State Senate, B District, AK

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson, Alaska State Senate, G District, AK

Senator Scott Kawasaki, Alaska State Senate, P District, AK

Governing Board Member Leanne Greenberg, Osborn Elementary School District, AZ

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Councilmember Trish Herrera Spencer, Alameda, CA

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Berkeley, CA

Mayor Chance Cutrano, Fairfax, CA

Council Woman Yanelly Martinez, Greenfield CA

Councilmember Larry Agran, Irvine City, CA

Mayor Eduardo Martinez, Richmond, CA

Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin, Richmond, CA

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, 16th California Assembly District

Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 38th California Assembly District

Senator Ben Allen, California Senate District 24

Mayor Aaron Brockett, Boulder, CO

Councilmember Julie Pignataro, City of Fort Collins, CO

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Representative Cathy Kipp, Colorado House of Representatives District 52

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Senator Lisa Cutter, Colorado Senate District 20

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Board of Representatives Member Sean Boeger, Stamford, CT

Board of Representatives Member Virgil de la Cruz, Stamford, CT

Board of Representatives Member Don Mays, Stamford, CT

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Representative Keith Denning, Connecticut House of Representatives District 42

Representative Liz Linehan, Connecticut House of Representatives District 103

Representative Mitch Bolinsky, Connecticut House of Representatives District 106

Representative Joseph Gresko, Connecticut House of Representatives District 121

Representative Anne Hughes, Connecticut House of Representatives District 135

Representative Dominique E. Johnson, Connecticut House of Representatives District 143

Representative David Michel, Connecticut House of Representatives District 146

Senator Julie Kushner, Connecticut State Senate District 24

Commissioner Joseph Van Wye, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C Single Member District 1C04, D.C.

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Representative Lindsay Cross, Florida State House District 60

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Chairwoman Carlotta Harrell, Henry County Board of Commissioners, GA

Mayor Anthony Ford, City of Stockbridge, GA

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State Representative Marvin Lim, Georgia House District 98

Senator Sheikh Rahman, Georgia State Senate District 5

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Representative Amy Perruso, Hawaii House of Representatives District 46

Representative Monica Kurth, Iowa House District 98

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Council Member Clare Kelly, Evanston, IL

Council Member Jonathan Nieuwsma, Evanston, IL

State Representative Maureen Bauer, Indiana House District 6

State Representative Sue Errington, Indiana House District 34

Town Meeting Member Lynette Culverhouse, Arlington, MA

Town Meeting Member Judith Garber, Arlington, MA

City Councilor-At-Large Jake Wilson, Somerville, MA

Representative Mike Connolly, Massachusetts House of Representatives 26th Middlesex

State Senator Pat Jehlen, Massachusetts State Senate 2nd Middlesex

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Delegate Mary A. Lehman, Maryland House of Delegates District 21

Delegate Sheila Ruth, Maryland House of Delegates District 44B

Delegate Robbyn Lewis, Maryland House of Delegates District 46

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Senator Sarah Elfreth, Maryland Senate District 30

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Township Supervisor Amy Bishop, Harmony Township, MN

County Commissioner Marion Greene, Hennepin County, MN

City Councilor Jay Miller, Mendota Heights, MN

City Councilperson John Justen, West St. Paul, MN

City Councilperson Wendy Berry, West St. Paul, MN

City Councilmember Lisa Eng-Sarne, West St. Paul, MN

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Representative Fue Lee, Minnesota House of Representatives, District 59A

Representative Sydney Jordan, Minnesota House of Representatives District 60A

Representative Frank Hornstein, Minnesota House of Representatives District 61A

Representative Aisha Gomez, Minnesota House of Representatives District 62A

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Representative Dave Pinto, Minnesota House of Representatives District 64B

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Senator John Hoffman, Minnesota Senate District 34

Senator Mary Kunesh, Minnesota Senate District 39

Senator John Marty, Minnesota Senate District 40

Senator D. Scott Dibble, Minnesota Senate, District 61

Senator Fong Hawj, Minnesota Senate District 67

Mayor Barbara M. Foushee, Carrboro, NC

Mayor Damon Seils, Carrboro, NC

Supervisor Evan Folds, New Hanover Soil & Water Conservation District, New Hanover County, NC

Supervisor Matt Collogan, New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District, New Hanover County NC

Representative Wendy Thomas, New Hampshire House of Representatives, Hillsborough 21

Mayor Alan Webber, Santa Fe, NM

Councilwoman Renee Villarreal, City of Santa Fe, NM

Councilmember Miguel Martinez, Reno, NV

Mayor Sarah Bauer, Larchmont, NY

Trustee Charles D. Manice, Larchmont, NY

Trustee Brigid Brennan, Larchmont, NY

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County Commissioner Phil Chang, Deschutes County, OR

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City Councilor Adam Khosroabadi, Milwaukie, OR

City Council President Mary Baumgardner, West Linn, OR

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Representative Khanh Pham, Oregon House of Representatives District 46

Representative Zach Hudson, Oregon House of Representatives District 49

Senator Jeff Golden, Oregon Senate District 3

Senator James I. Manning, Jr., Oregon Senate District 7

Senator Deb Patterson, Oregon Senate District 10

Senator Kayse Jama, Oregon State Senate District 24

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Representative Aftyn Behn, Tennessee State House of Representatives, District 51

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Representative Mark. A. Wheatley, Utah House of Representatives District 35

Delegate Kaye Kory, Virginia House of Delegates District 38

City Councilor Gene Bergman, Burlington, VT

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County Councilmember Megan Dunn, Snohomish County, WA

Representative Liz Berry, 36th Washington State House of Representatives District

County Board Supervisor Susan .A Hendrickson, Douglas County, WI

County Board Supervisor Ronald M. Leino, 6th District, Douglas County, WI

County Board Supervisor Jim Borgeson, District 20, WI

CC:

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The Republican Leader U.S. Senate

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
House Minority Leader

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell