

May 22, 2024

The Honorable GT Thompson
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Committee on Agriculture
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Thompson and Ranking Member Scott,

We write to express our strong opposition to Sections 10204, and 10205 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024. Any effort to preempt or limit longstanding state and local authority to regulate pesticides undermines duly elected state, county, and local governments' rights to protect their communities and set policies that best suit their local needs. We urge you to strike these sections and reject a Farm Bill that does not protect state and local rights.

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 and the Supreme Court have long considered FIFRA to set a federal floor for pesticide policy, and under FIFRA, state, county, and local governments possess the authority to enact supplementary standards. If the pesticide provisions become law, crop chemical makers could evade responsibility to people, including farmers, sickened by exposure, even as emerging research shows many of the substances can cause cancer and other diseases. These problematic pesticides include Roundup, which contains glyphosate and Gramoxone, which contains paraquat.

Hundreds of towns, cities, and counties have adopted laws and ordinances related to pesticide safety. These include laws to limit 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. These local laws and ordinances are integral to protecting children and those most vulnerable to environmental harm.

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 their communities, and proposals to weaken their ability to respond could significantly impact public safety. Undermining that authority would handicap critical local efforts to address cancer and other health risks, threats to water resources, and harm to pollinators, and preventable harm to other wildlife.

Over [140 mayors, lawmakers and other officials](#) from more than 30 states, [organizations representing state and local](#) elected officials, [hundreds of members of the House of](#)

[Representatives](#) and [20 Senators](#) are standing together to urge Congress to reject legislation that would limit longstanding state and local pesticide safety rules.

As your committee continues its work in finding a way forward for the Farm Bill, we urge you to reject any pesticide preemption language that would diminish local authority.

Sincerely,

Environmental Working Group
Beyond Pesticides
United Farm Workers
Natural Resources Defense Council
James Beard Foundation
League of Conservation Voters
HEAL (Health, Environment, Agriculture, Labor) Food Alliance
Ecological Landscape Alliance
Center for Biological Diversity
Earthjustice
American Bird Conservancy
American Sustainable Business Network
The Rachel Carson Council
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Center for Food Safety
American Association for Justice
Interfaith Power & Light
GreenLatinos
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Center for Environmental Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Organic Coalition
Midwest Farmers of Color Collective
Farmworker Association of Florida
Food Chain Workers Alliance
Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides
Toxic Free NC
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Organic Voices
Organic Trade Association
Northeast Organic Farming Association-Interstate Council
CT NOFA: Northeast Organic Farming Association of CT
Northeast Organic Farming Association of Massachusetts (NOFA-MA)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH)
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey NOFA-NJ
Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY)

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Rural Coalition
Food & Water Watch
Evergreen Action
Friends of the Earth
350 Bay Area Action
A.I.R.
Agricultural Justice Project
Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Association
Americans for Family Farmers
Animal Welfare Institute
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
California Nurses for Environmental Health and Justice
Californians for Pesticide Reform
Campaign for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture
Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund
Center for Farmworker Families
Center for Community Advocacy
Central California Asthma Collaborative
Chicago Food Policy Action Council
Chilis on Wheels
Climate Action Now
Climate Crisis Policy
Climate Justice Alliance
Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety
Coalition for Healthy School Food
Community Food Advocates
Compassionate Action for Animals
Competitive Markets Action
CRLA Foundation
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Family Farm Defenders
Farm Aid
Farm Sanctuary
FOUR PAWS USA
Future Leaders of Change
Grandparents for Action
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)
Healthy Kids, Happy Planet!
Hungry Planet
Idaho Conservation League
Illinois Environmental Council

Impact Fund
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
International Wildlife Coexistence Network
Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future
Just Serve
La Semilla Food Center
Locust Point Community Garden
Maryland Ornithological Society
Maryland Votes for Animals
Massachusetts Pollinator Network
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Moms Advocating Sustainability
Moms for a Nontoxic New York (MNNY)
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council
Monterey Peace and Justice Center
Next 100 Coalition
Non Toxic Communities
Non-Toxic Neighborhoods
Northwest Forest Worker Center
Norwalk River Watershed Association
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organization for Competitive Markets
Partnership for Policy Integrity
People & Pollinators Action Network
Pesticide Action Network North America
Physicians for Social Responsibility/Maine Chapter
Physicians for Social Responsibility/Texas Chapter
Pollinator Friendly Alliance
Pollinator Pathway
Prairie Rivers Network
Predator Defense
Protect All Children's Environment
Protect Our Pollinators
Public Health Institute
Public Justice
Re:wild Your Campus
Récolte Energy
Resource Renewal Institute
Rocky Mountain Wild
Roots of Change
Roots Return Heritage Farm LLC
Safe Ag Safe Schols
Safe Ag Safe Schools - Monterey Bay
Salinas Elementary Teachers Council

San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Jerardo Cooperative Inc
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Science and Environmental Health Network
Serf City Times
Slow FoodRR
Sonoma County Climate Activist Network (SoCoCAN!)
Striving to Serve Others
Terra Advocati
The Common Market
The Earth Bill Network
The Green Room Corp.
The National Health Federation
UFCW Local 5
Valley Improvement Projects
Virginia Association for Biological Farming
Vote Climate
Voters For Animal Rights
West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs
Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN)
Wood Botanicals
www.gmoscience.org
YardSmartMarin