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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1313

February 22, 2018

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WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

On March 20, 2017, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1029, The Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act of 2017, by a voice vote on suspension of the rules – an overwhelming indication of this bill's bipartisan support and lack of controversy. This legislation would reauthorize the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) successful pesticide registration program first established under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) in 2004. PRIA ensures that companies regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) can confidently invest in the research and development of new products because they know that there is a prescribed timeline in which the EPA must review registrations. To support PRIA's prescribed timeline, companies pay fees to provide a predictable level of funding which augments the EPA's annual appropriations.

Following its passage in the House of Representatives, the Senate Agriculture Committee approved its version of the bill on June 29, 2017. Since then, a group of Senators have used the tools provided to them under the rules of the Senate to stop the bill's advancement to gain concessions on unrelated matters. Due to these actions, PRIA's authorization would have lapsed last September at the close of Fiscal Year 2017. Fortunately, short-term extensions of PRIA have been provided by Congress through its inclusion in the Continuing Resolutions to fund the government.

As Congress proceeds to enact legislation to fund government operations for the remainder of the fiscal year, I am concerned about the future of the PRIA program and the possibility of a lapse in PRIA or an extension of current law. I am writing today to request the EPA to provide an analysis of the impact of both a lapse in PRIA and the continuation of current law on the following areas:

- EPA Staffing
- Collection of maintenance fees
- Collection of registration service fees
- The EPA's ability to adhere to timelines for registration and other applications as prescribed in current law
- The EPA's ability to meet deadlines for registration review
- The impact that Section 4(k)(2) of FIFRA remaining in effect would have on EPA resources and on registrants
- The impact on the EPA and registrants of not providing for the new uses of funds proposed in H.R. 1029
- Any other impacts identified by the EPA

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Timely consideration of this request is appreciated given the constraints Congress is working against as it nears the March 23, 2018, expiration of the current continuing resolution. Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'D'.

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress