Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology

PRIA 6 Reauthorization:
Ensuring Predictable Access to Critical Tools

2026 CPDA POLICY BACKGROUND PAPER

THE ISSUE

America's pesticide regulatory system is a global gold standard built on science, transparency, and accountability. It is also a core component of the nation's food security, public health infrastructure, and agricultural supply chain. Farmers depend on timely access to safe, effective crop protection technologies to produce reliable and affordable food, fiber, and fuel.

The Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) has provided an important bipartisan framework for improving regulatory transparency, accountability, and review timeline predictability. PRIA established statutory decision timelines and supplemental user-fee funding intended to support EPA's ability to complete regulatory actions on schedule. However, increasing workload complexity, expanded statutory responsibilities, and resource constraints have placed increasing strain on the system's ability to consistently meet those timelines.

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) functions as a business-critical licensing authority supporting American manufacturing, public health protection, and food production. When regulatory timelines slip, innovation slows, investment decisions are delayed, and farmers lose access to critical tools needed to produce reliable yields and affordable food.

A clean, bipartisan PRIA 6 reauthorization provides an opportunity to reinforce the core PRIA framework, improve regulatory efficiency, and ensure OPP has the tools and resources needed to meet statutory deadlines for both PRIA and non-PRIA actions.

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS & WHY IT MATTERS

Pesticides are a broad range of important products essential for crop protection, mosquito and pest control, disinfectants, water treatment chemicals, materials preservatives, and other critical uses. Before a pesticide product can be legally offered for sale or use in the United States, it must be registered by EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), which carefully evaluates the risks and benefits of each product. Pesticides are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

OPP's regulatory process is rigorous and science-driven and can take years to complete. EPA conducts detailed scientific reviews of product data, including potential impacts on human health, the environment, animals, and product effectiveness against pests and pathogens. The review process evaluates how and where a product will be used, application rates and timing, and storage and disposal practices. EPA also evaluates potential impacts to ensure there is reasonable certainty of no harm to people and no unreasonable adverse effects to the environment, including impacts to non-target species and endangered species.

In 2004, Congress enacted the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA), modeled after successful user-fee programs used for prescription drugs and medical devices. The Act has been reauthorized multiple times on a bipartisan basis and establishes a schedule of fees paid by registrants for pesticide registration actions under FIFRA. PRIA also includes product maintenance fees that support periodic re-review of existing registrations on a 15-year cycle. These fees support personnel, scientific capacity, and technology resources at OPP specifically dedicated to registration activities.

In exchange, PRIA establishes statutory timelines for regulatory decision making. Products supported under PRIA include crop protection products, antimicrobials, biopesticides, disinfectants, and other technologies that protect human health, animal health, communities, infrastructure, and the environment. The law also requires EPA to report to Congress on its progress completing regulatory reviews and other actions on established timelines.

Predictable regulatory performance allows new products to reach the marketplace and allows companies to invest in research and development with greater confidence in regulatory outcomes and market access. For farmers, regulatory consistency helps ensure continued access to the tools needed to manage pests, improve yields, and produce safe and affordable food.

WHY PRIA 6 MATTERS NOW

PRIA was designed to improve regulatory predictability and performance by providing structure, transparency, and dedicated fee-supported resources. While the framework has provided important program structure and transparency, the regulatory landscape has evolved significantly since earlier PRIA authorizations.

Today, OPP is managing increased scientific data volume and complexity, expanded ESA-related workload, greater demand for label clarity and implementation consistency, and increased demand for both PRIA and non-PRIA regulatory actions.

These factors have made consistent performance against statutory timelines more difficult and have increased pressure on OPP workforce, technology systems, and review processes. PRIA 6 provides an opportunity to modernize the program and ensure it reflects current regulatory workload, scientific complexity, and implementation realities.

PROGRESS MADE, WORK REMAINING

EPA has taken meaningful steps to improve regulatory performance, including process modernization, increased action throughput, and improved internal coordination. These efforts are important and should continue.

However, structural challenges remain. Scientific staffing gaps, workforce training needs, legacy IT systems, and process inconsistencies across OPP divisions continue to affect long-term program efficiency.

Continued investment in technology, workforce training, and process modernization is essential to ensuring regulatory decisions are transparent, consistent, and timely across all OPP divisions.

CPDA POLICY PERSPECTIVE

CPDA supports a clean, bipartisan PRIA 6 reauthorization focused on regulatory performance, predictability, and implementation efficiency, without the addition of non-germane policy provisions.

CPDA priorities include ensuring EPA has sufficient resources and implements technology and process improvements necessary to meet statutory deadlines for both PRIA and non-PRIA actions.

CPDA supports continued refinement of EPA processes to ensure that regulatory actions are completed in a timely manner and that the remaining backlog is eliminated.

CPDA supports the use of technology and workforce training to ensure regulatory decision making is transparent and consistent across all OPP divisions.

CPDA supports continued modernization of regulatory tools and systems, including improvements to platforms such as InertFinder.

CPDA supports process improvements for follow-on products, including me-too and repack actions, where scientifically appropriate.

CPDA supports protecting set-asides and resources necessary to complete non-PRIA actions in a timely manner.

CONCLUSION

PRIA has provided an important bipartisan framework that has improved transparency and accountability in pesticide registration. PRIA 6 provides an opportunity to strengthen this framework and ensure it reflects current scientific workload, regulatory complexity, and implementation realities.

A clean PRIA 6 reauthorization that reinforces predictable regulatory performance, supports modernization, and ensures sufficient resources for EPA will help support farmers, consumers, public health, and the U.S. agricultural supply chain.

Maintaining a fully resourced, science-based regulatory system helps ensure farmers maintain access to the tools they need to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food.

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