October 27, 2023

Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable David Scott  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson 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 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. The majority of states – as well as 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.

We are deeply concerned that legislative proposals to curtail state and local input regarding pesticide policy are contrary to FIFRA’s longstanding balance of federal, state, and local authority. These proposals seek to overturn decades of precedent and Supreme Court rulings that allow for democratically elected local governments 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 have a significant impact on public safety. Preemption of state and local authority could result in an immediate removal of protections for communities across the country, with the potential to limit accountability for manufacturers who fail to adequately warn consumers about the hazards posed by certain high-risk pesticides.

As the House continues its work in the 118th Congress, we urge you to reject any and all harmful pesticide policy riders that would both diminish local authority and compromise Congress’ ability to deliver bipartisan legislation for the American people. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Troy Carter
Member of Congress

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

David J. Trone
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress

Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress

Katie Porter  
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

Melanie A. Stansbury  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Morgan McCarvey  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

André Carson  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress

Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress

Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress

Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Jeff Jackson  
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress

Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth Congressional District

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress
cc: Honorable Andy Harris, Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.