Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Madam Administrator:

The undersigned Members of the U.S. House of Representatives are writing to express our concern with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) draft ecological risk assessment on atrazine. In its present form, it would have a significant negative impact on farmers and rural communities nationwide.

Atrazine has been used for decades as an effective herbicide for tens of thousands of growers, and it is particularly important for corn, sugar cane and sorghum producers. Moreover, it is one of the most thoroughly studied herbicides used today, accounting for nearly 7,000 scientific studies. Unfortunately, EPA's draft ecological risk assessment throws its future use into doubt, an outcome that, according to many, may not be scientifically justified. This criticism appears to be borne out by the agency's approach, where it is setting standards on studies that the EPA's own Science Advisory Panel considered "flawed" in 2012.

When used properly and in accordance with label instructions, atrazine is one of the most vital herbicides available to farmers. It has been used safely for more than fifty years and is a critical tool in assuring the sustainability of many farms nationwide. Farmers are great stewards of their land, and they understand the importance of using safe products on their crops. Limiting atrazine would create a reliance on more expensive and environmentally harmful pesticides, and make conservation efforts more difficult by impeding farming methods such as no-till or strip-till.

It would be irresponsible to greatly restrict one of the safest and most trusted herbicides on the market. Various economic analysis studies show farming without atrazine could cost growers up to $59 per acre. This is especially detrimental to the small family farms that would be hurt by an unsubstantiated government decision.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

With this information in mind we ask that you take into account the needs of farmers and use sound science when finalizing the ecological risk assessment for atrazine. It is imperative that EPA take the science and public comments seriously and revise the preliminary ecological risk assessment using the best available data. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ken Buck
Member of Congress

Rod Blum
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress

Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

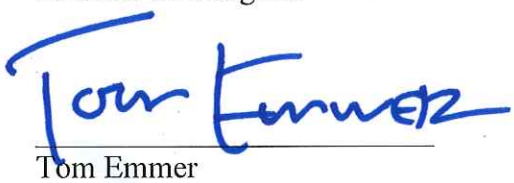
Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Charles Boustany, MD
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

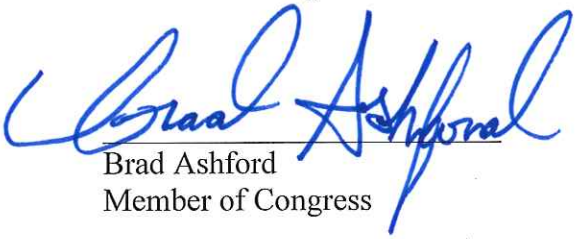
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Brad Ashford
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Brian Babin
Member of Congress

Frank Lucas
Member of Congress

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

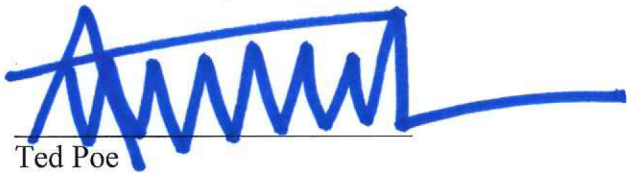
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

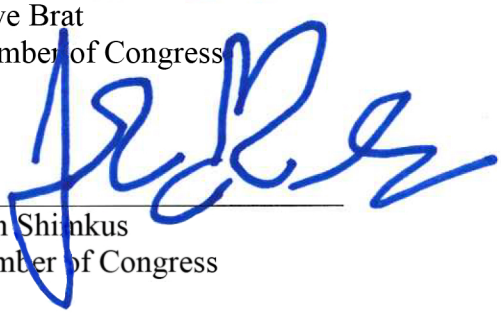
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Dave Brat
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress

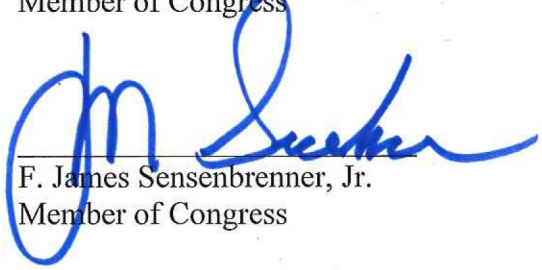


John Shimkus
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Luke Messer
Member of Congress

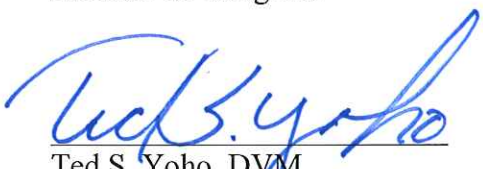
Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress

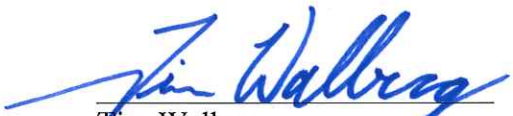
Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



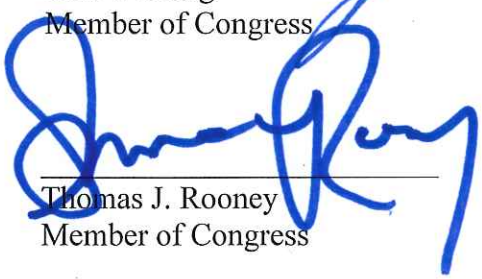
Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

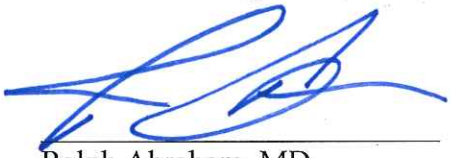


Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Todd Young
Member of Congress

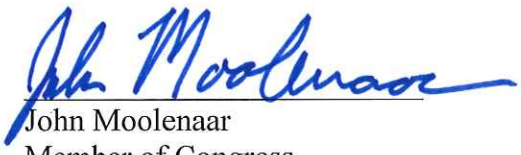


Thomas J. Rooney
Member of Congress

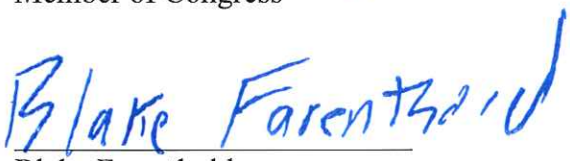


Ralph Abraham, MD
Member of Congress

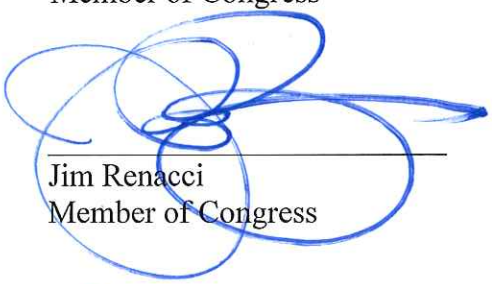
Martha McSally
Member of Congress



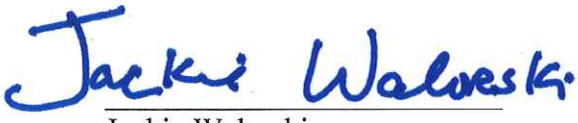
John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress

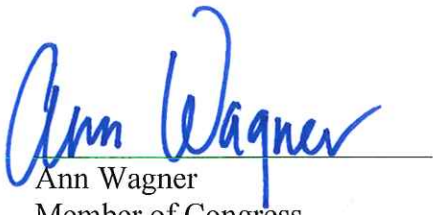


Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

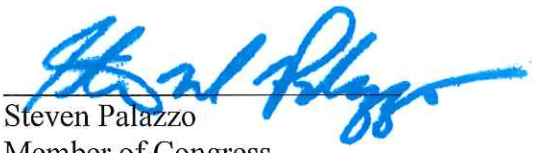


Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

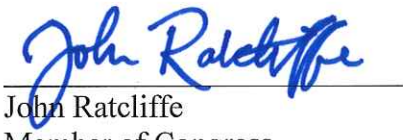
Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress

Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress

Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress

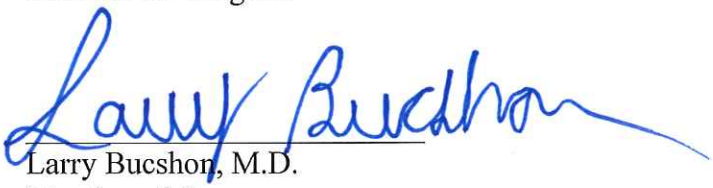


Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress

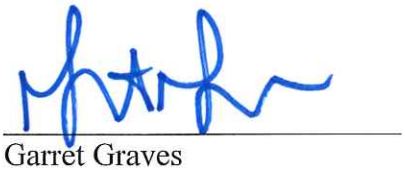
Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress

Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



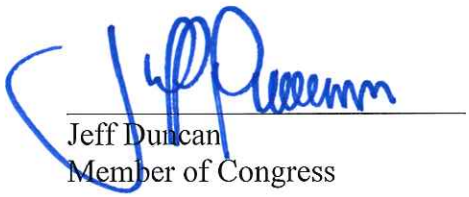
Garret Graves
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

French Hill
Member of Congress

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

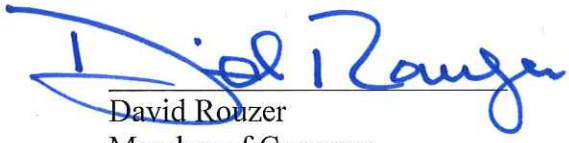


Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Ander Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

John Carter
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

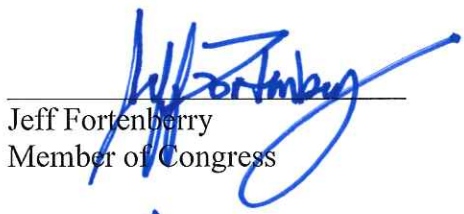
Billy Long
Member of Congress

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

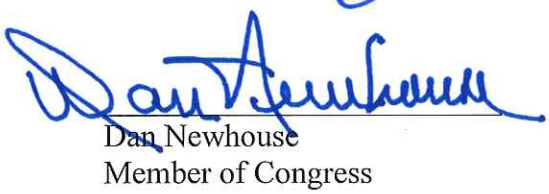
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Gary Palmer
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar, PhD
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Steve Scalise
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek M.D.
Member of Congress

Mark Walker
Member of Congress

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress