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.
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
Raúl Labrador  
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, DVM  
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

Thomas J. Rooney  
Member of Congress

Martha McSally  
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold  
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Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress

Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Todd Young  
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham, MD  
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

Jim Renacci  
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Bruce Westerman  
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Doug Lamborn  
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Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup
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Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress

Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress

Steve 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

Andr Crenshaw
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgreen
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
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Steve King
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Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress
Daniel Webster  
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Henry Cuellar, PhD  
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Michael R. Turner  
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Steve Scalise  
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Dan Benishek M.D.  
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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