

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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November 5, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
Chairman
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
1010 Longworth House Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: H.R. 2, *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* (Farm Bill).

Dear Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow, Chairman Conaway, and Ranking Member Peterson:

I write today to urge you to reject the provision in the H.R. 2, *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, section 9101, which would preempt local pesticide programs that protect public health and the environment. As House and Senate conferees negotiate a final agreement, I urge you to reject this provision.

I strongly oppose any provision that does not allow for local decision-making processes where pesticides are concerned. Section 9101 would not only preempt future ordinances and policies, but could retroactively eliminate existing local pesticide policies and programs, having far reaching effects.

A growing body of evidence links pesticides to a wide range of diseases and conditions including Parkinson's disease, diabetes, leukemia, lupus, autism, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, dementia, reproductive disorders and a variety of cancers. The most vulnerable to these threats are our children, as is recognized by the American Academy of Pediatrics in their opposition to this provision. Recognizing these risks many communities have passed progressive policies to manage pesticides and protect the public.

Albany has a history of taking every measure possible to protect the health and safety of our community. Albany's Integrated Pest Management Resolution embraces the Precautionary Principle and least toxic pest management for our properties. By having the choice to manage pesticide applications, we have limited exposure to pesticides where children and members of the public congregate, thereby reducing potential human and environmental impacts.

Since the adoption of the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act* the rights of local governmental jurisdictions have been left to the states. This is appropriate, has worked well and should remain unchanged. I urge you to ensure the provision preempting local authority, included in H.R. 2, section 9101, does not become law. I encourage you to remove the following language from the Farm Bill.

Subtitle B, Section (b) Uniform Regulation of Pesticides, "(3) CONDITION ON MORE RESTRICTIVE REGULATION.—Section 24(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v(a)) is amended by striking "A State may" and inserting "A State, but not a political subdivision of a State, may".

Local governments are more attuned to its pest management challenges and the needs of its constituents. The above-listed restriction undermines the key role local governments play in protecting the health and safety of their communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your support to oppose any local government's pesticide protection preemptions. If you have any questions, please contact me at (510) 559-4580.

Sincerely,



Peggy McQuaid
Mayor of Albany

Cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, US Senator for California
The Honorable Kamala Harris, US Senator for California
The Honorable Barbara Lee, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, US House of Representatives
Assembly Member Tony Thurmond, assemblymember.thurmond@assembly.ca.gov
Senator Nancy Skinner, senator.skinner@senate.ca.gov
Sam Caygill, League of CA Cities, scaygill@cacities.org