

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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



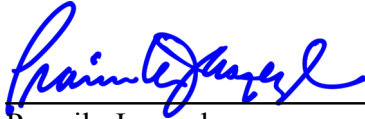
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



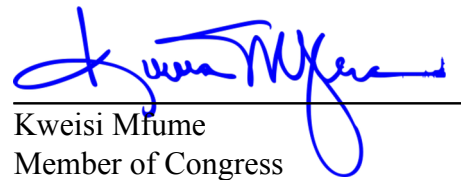
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Troy Carter
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



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



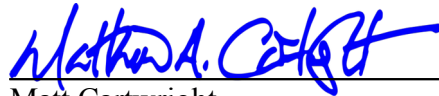
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



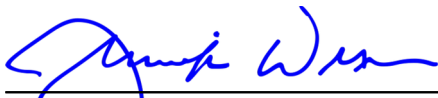
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



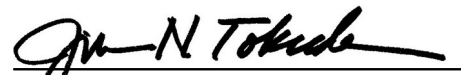
David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



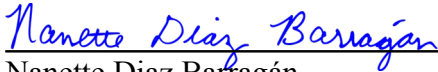
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



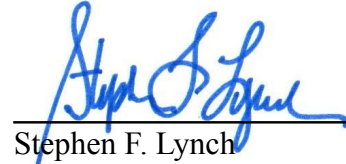
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress




Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



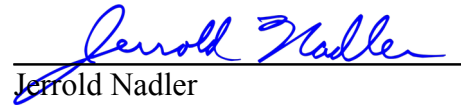
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



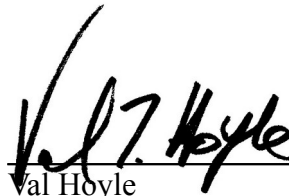
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



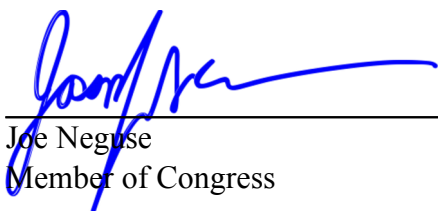
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



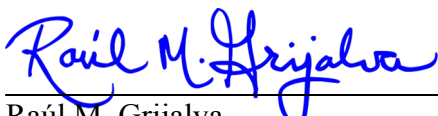
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



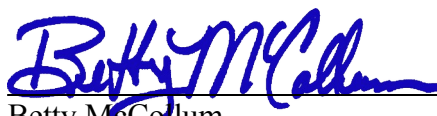
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



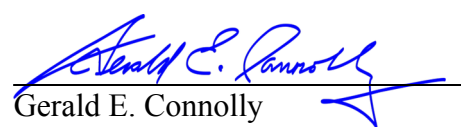
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



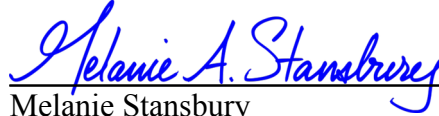
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



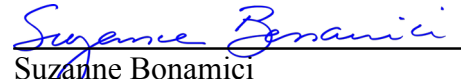
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



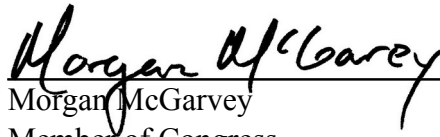
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
Member of Congress



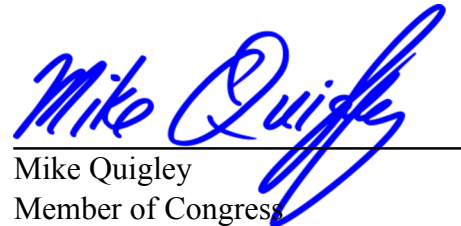
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
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



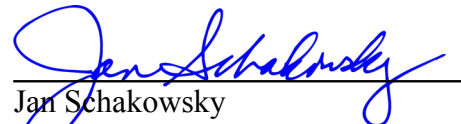
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



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



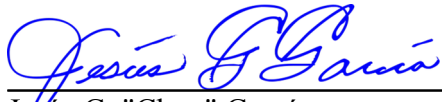
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



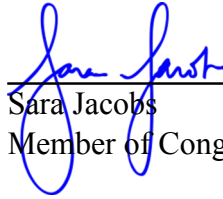
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



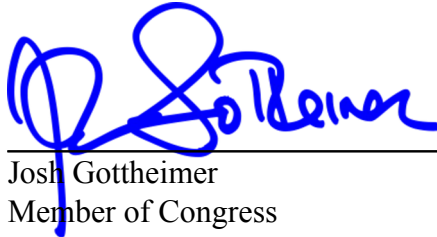
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



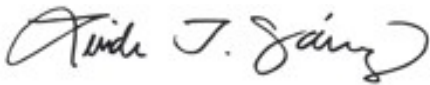
Sheri Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



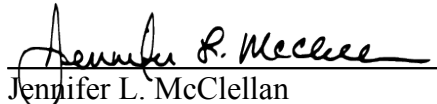
Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



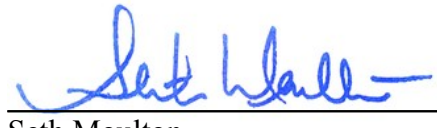
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress



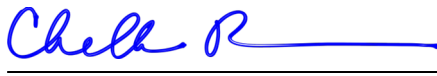
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



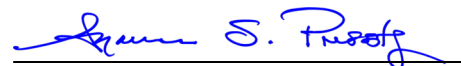
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
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Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress

Kevin Mullin
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Nikema Williams
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Robert Garcia
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Greg Casar
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Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress

Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress

Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

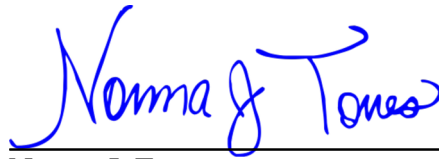
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress



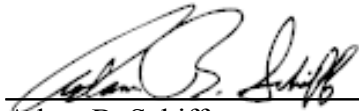
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



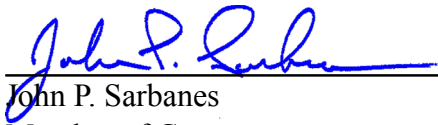
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



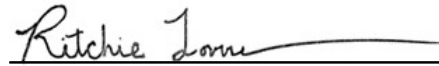
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



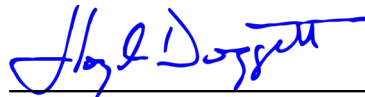
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



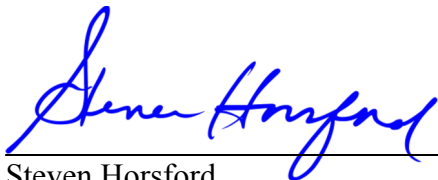
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



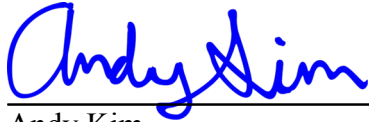
Steven Horsford
Member of Congress
Nevada's Fourth Congressional
District



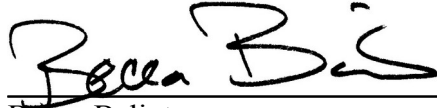
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



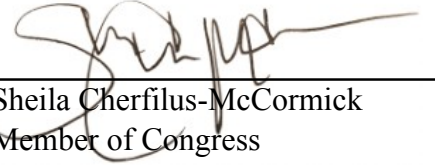
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



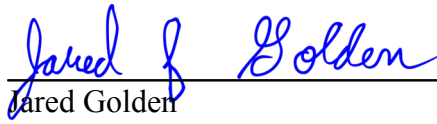
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



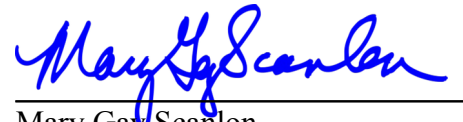
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



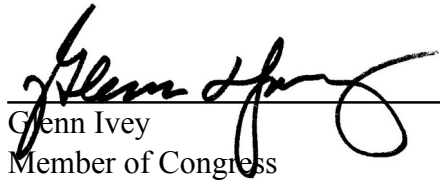
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress



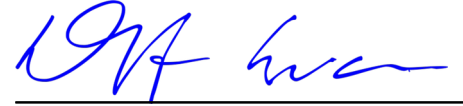
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress

cc: Honorable Andy Harris, Honorable Sanford Bishop, Jr.