

June 6, 2019

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior & Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior & Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce:

The undersigned organizations represent a unique coalition consisting of the registrant community (including both agricultural and non-agricultural uses, antimicrobial companies, large and small companies, biotech companies, and biopesticide manufacturers) and labor and environmental advocates. We write to express our concern regarding the proposed funding levels for OPP included in the subcommittee's proposed FY 2020 Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

If enacted, programs, which provide funding to implement the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, as amended by the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018, will be cut by 11% from FY 19 levels.

The Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018 (Public Law 116-8), or PRIA 4, was enacted March 8, 2019. It reauthorizes the Environmental Protection Agency's program to assess fees for review and registration of pesticide products. The law increased fees paid by industry for these services by as much as 30% from levels enacted in 2012. PRIA 4 also includes funding for worker protection education programs, pesticide risk reduction programs and partnership grants.

Although the Subcommittee had additional resources above the FY 19 enacted levels at its disposal, this bill reduces funding for these important OPP programs. Prior to FY 2019, funding levels for these programs had been stagnant and far short of the levels anticipated when PRIA-3 was enacted in FY 2012, which resulted in delayed decisions, staffing reductions and diminished morale. The funding levels in this bill only create more uncertainty and will likely result in staffing shortages in the OPP.

As the bill progresses through the legislative process, we urge Congress to provide no less than the FY 19 funding levels for these programs which protect human health and the environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council's Center for Biocide Chemistries
Animal Health Institute (AHI)

Biological Products Industry Alliance (BPIA)
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)
CropLife America
Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology
Earthjustice
Farmworker Justice
Household & Commercial Products Association
ISSA, The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
United Farm Workers

June 6, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior & Environment
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior & Environment
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

The undersigned organizations represent a unique coalition consisting of the registrant community (including both agricultural and non-agricultural uses, antimicrobial companies, large and small companies, biotech companies, and biopesticide manufacturers) and labor and environmental advocates. We write to express our concern regarding the proposed funding levels for OPP included in the subcommittee's proposed FY 2020 Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

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