

March 18, 2015

Members of House Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The nearly one hundred undersigned organizations **urge your support for HR 897, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act**, at *tomorrow's business meeting* of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Pesticide users are now subjected to the court created requirement that lawful applications over, to or near 'waters of the U.S.' obtain a Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or delegated states. HR 897 would clarify that federal law does *not* require this redundant permit for already regulated pesticide applications.

Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), all pesticides are reviewed and regulated for use with strict instructions on the EPA approved product label. A thorough review and accounting of impacts to water quality and aquatic species is included in every EPA review. Requiring water permits for pesticide applications is *redundant* and provides *no additional environmental benefit*.

Compliance with the NPDES water permit also *imposes duplicative resource burdens* on thousands of small businesses and farms, as well as the municipal, county, state and federal agencies responsible for protecting natural resources and public health. Further, and most menacing, the permit *exposes all pesticide users* – regardless of permit eligibility - *to the liability of CWA-based citizen law suits*.

In the 112th Congress, the same Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act - then HR 872 - passed the House Committee on Agriculture and went on to pass the House of Representatives on suspension. In the 113th Congress, the legislation - then HR 935- passed the both the House Committees on Agriculture and Transportation & Infrastructure by voice vote, and again, the House of Representatives.

The water permit threatens the critical role pesticides play in protecting crops and human health from destructive and disease-carrying pests, and for managing invasive weeds to keep open waterways and shipping lanes, to maintain rights of way for transportation and power generation, and to prevent damage to forests and recreation areas. The time and money expended on redundant permit compliance drains public and private resources. All this for no measureable benefit to the environment. We urge you to **remove this regulatory burden by voting "YES" on HR 897, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act.**

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Council of Indiana

Agribusiness & Water Council of Arizona

Agricultural Alliance of North Carolina
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Agricultural Retailers Association
Alabama Agribusiness Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
Alabama Farmers Federation
American Mosquito Control Association
American Soybean Association
AmericanHort
Aquatic Plant Management Society
Arkansas Forestry Association
Biopesticide Industry Alliance
California Association of Winegrape
Growers
California Specialty Crops Council
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association
The Cranberry Institute
CropLife America
Council of Producers & Distributors of
Agrotechnology
Family Farm Alliance
Far West Agribusiness Association
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Golf Course Superintendents Association of
America
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Grower Shippers Association
Idaho Potato Commission
Idaho Water Users Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Louisiana Cotton and Grain Association
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Maine Potato Board
Michigan Agribusiness Association
Minnesota Agricultural Aircraft Association
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Minnesota Pesticide Information &
Education
Minor Crops Farmer Alliance
Missouri Agribusiness Association
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation
Montana Agricultural Business Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Alliance of Independent Crop
Consultants
National Association of State Departments
of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Pest Management Association
National Potato Council
National Rural Electric Cooperative
Association

National Water Resources Association	Texas Vegetation Management Association
Nebraska Agri-Business Association	United Fresh Produce Association
North Carolina Agricultural Consultants Association	U.S. Apple Association
North Carolina Cotton Producers Association	USA Rice Federation
North Central Weed Science Society	Virginia Agribusiness Council
North Dakota Agricultural Association	Virginia Forestry Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance	Washington Friends of Farm & Forests
Northeastern Weed Science Society	Washington State Potato Commission
Northern Plains Potato Growers Association	Weed Science Society of America
Northwest Horticultural Council	Western Growers
Ohio Professional Applicators for Responsible Regulation	Western Plant Health Association
Oregon Potato Commission	Western Society of Weed Science
Oregonians for Food & Shelter	Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine
Pesticide Policy Coalition	Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.	Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association
Professional Landcare Network	Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)	Wyoming Ag Business Association
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association	Wyoming Crop Improvement Association
SC Fertilizer Agrichemicals Association	Wyoming Wheat Growers Association
South Dakota Agri-Business Association	
South Texas Cotton and Grain Association	
Southern Cotton Growers, Inc.	
Southern Crop Production Association	
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers	
Southern Weed Science Society	
Sugar Cane League	
Texas Ag Industries Association	