

# 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 118<sup>th</sup> 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



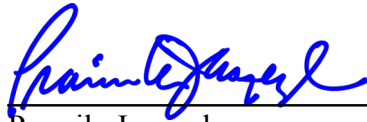
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



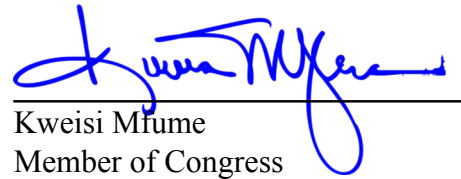
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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



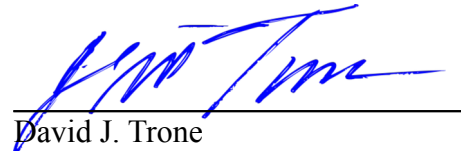
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress




David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



Jennifer Wexton  
Member of Congress



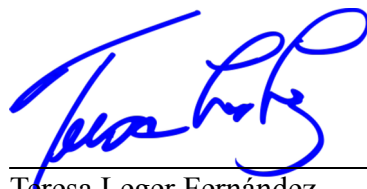
Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



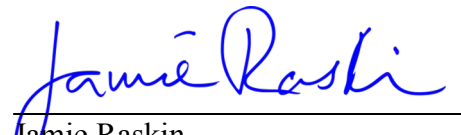
Jim Tokuda  
Member of Congress



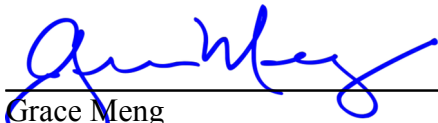
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernández  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



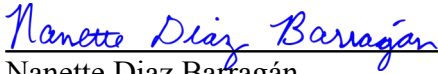
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



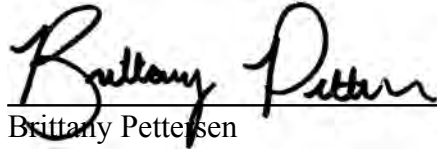
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



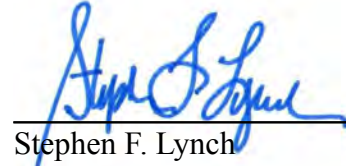
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress




Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



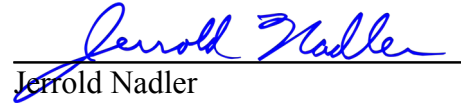
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



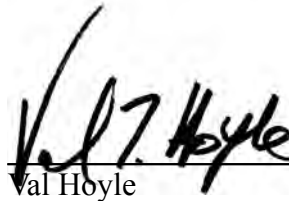
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



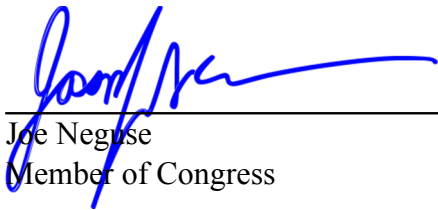
Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



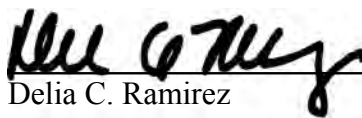
Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



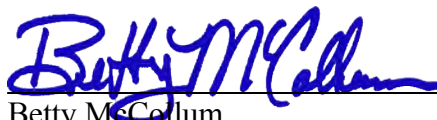
Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



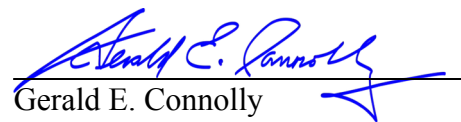
Katie Porter  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



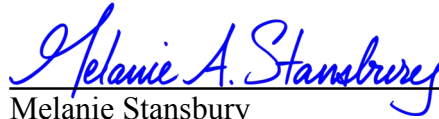
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



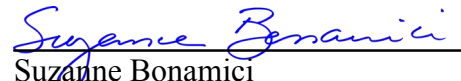
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



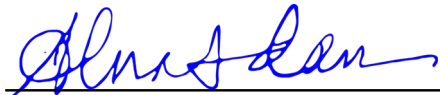
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



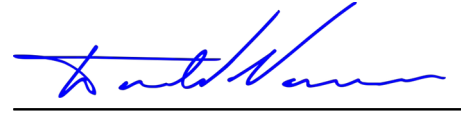
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



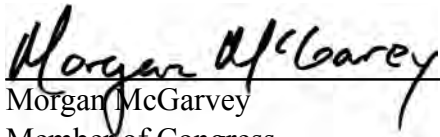
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



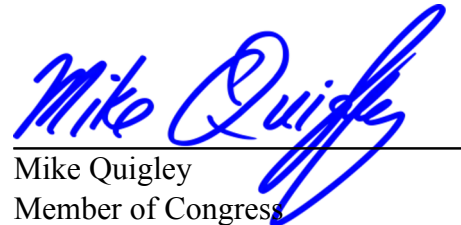
Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



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



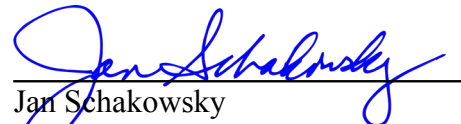
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



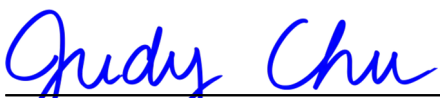
André Carson  
Member of Congress



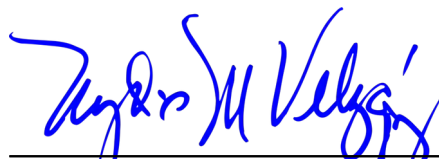
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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



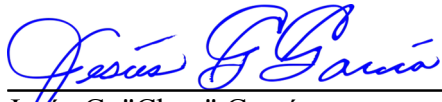
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



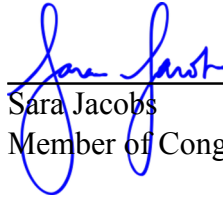
Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



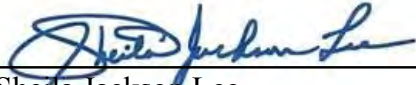
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



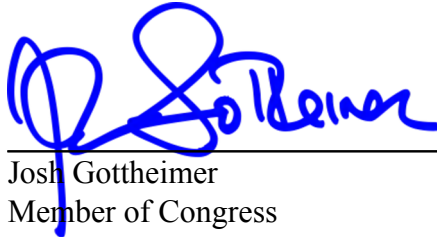
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



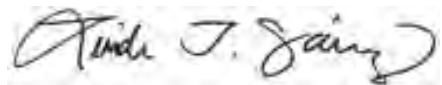
Sheri Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



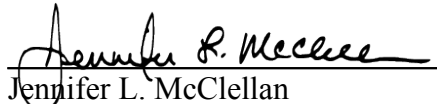
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



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  
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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  
Member of Congress

Jasmine Crockett  
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Shri Thanedar  
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Kevin Mullin  
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Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress

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

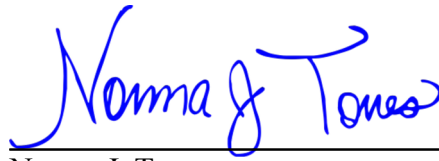
Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress

Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress

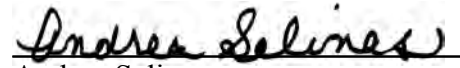
Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



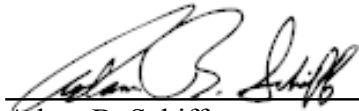
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



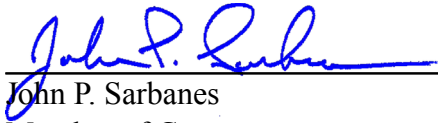
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



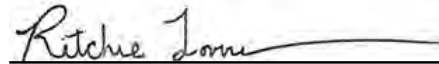
Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



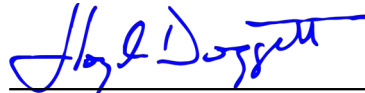
Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress



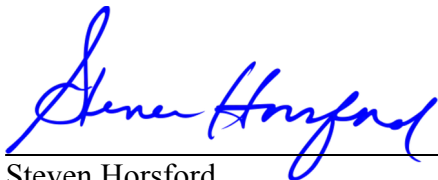
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Susie Lee  
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



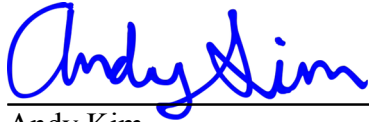
Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress  
Nevada's Fourth Congressional  
District



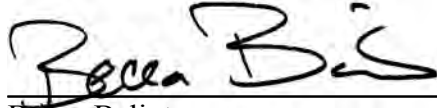
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



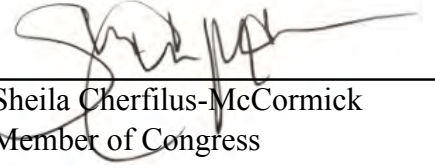
Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



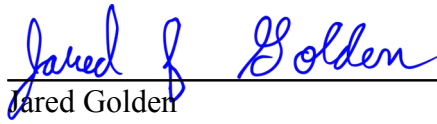
Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



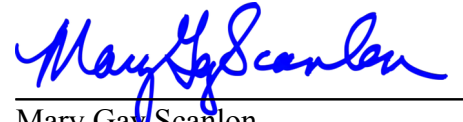
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



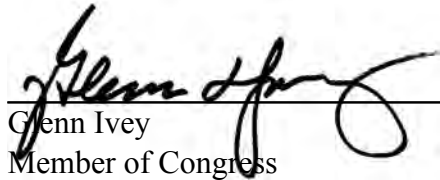
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Jared Golden  
Member of Congress



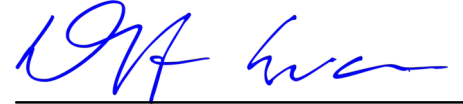
Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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.