May 23, 2017  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  

Dear Representative,  

On behalf of the over one hundred undersigned organizations, we urge you to vote in favor of  

For almost forty years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and pesticide applicators  
including public health agencies charged with mosquito control operated exclusively under the  
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In fact, EPA has testified to the  
adequacy of FIFRA’s comprehensive regulatory requirements including substantial enforcement  
mechanisms in pursuit of that goal.  

However, a 2009 activist-inspired lawsuit resulted in a federal court decision identifying a  
technicality in the law that Congress had not properly clarified its intent that FIFRA should have  
preeminence over the Clean Water Act (CWA). This decision resulted in pesticide users being  
required to obtain a CWA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.  
These permits were originally created to address the discharge of waste by major industrial  
polluters, but now are mandated for mosquito control districts and others who are applying  
pesticides approved by EPA for use in the environment for their beneficial purposes of trying  
to prevent or control the spread of public health disease in the U.S.  

Though the NPDES permit burden lacks any additional environmental benefit under these  
circumstances, it does force substantial costs on thousands of small application 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 a  
number of instances, applicators – that once conducted mosquito abatement applications for  
local governments and homeowner associations – can’t afford the costs or risk of frivolous  
litigation that accompanies NPDES PGPs and have refrained from conducting public health  
applications.  

H.R. 953 would clarify Congressional intent that federal law does not require this redundant  
permit for already regulated pesticide applications.  

In the 112th Congress, similar legislation (H.R. 872) passed the House Committee on Agriculture  
and went on to pass the House of Representatives on suspension. In the 113th Congress, the  
legislation (H.R. 935) passed both the House Committees on Agriculture and Transportation &  
Infrastructure by voice vote, and again, the House of Representatives. In the 114th Congress, the  
Zika Vector Control Act (H.R. 897) passed the House of Representatives yet again. With your  
help and support, H.R. 953 will also pass the House and hopefully become law.  

Since H.R. 897 passed the House last year, there has been yet another costly lawsuit against a  
mosquito control district, forcing the district to spend its funds fighting in court instead of  
protecting public health.
Under these circumstances, NPDES permit requirements impact the use of critical pesticides in protecting human health and the food supply from destructive and disease-carrying pests, and in managing invasive weeds to keep open waterways and shipping lanes, to maintain rights of way for transportation and power generation, and in preventing damage to forests and recreation areas. The time and funds expended on redundant permit compliance drains public and private resources. All this for no measurable benefit to the environment. We urge you to **eliminate this unnecessary, expensive, and duplicative regulation by ensuring the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017 passes the House on Wednesday.**

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
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Biopesticide Industry Alliance
California Agricultural Aircraft Association
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Specialty Crops Council
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association
Colorado Agricultural Aviation Association
The Cranberry Institute
Crop Protection Association of North Carolina
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
Iowa Agricultural Aviation Association
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<td>North Carolina Cotton Producers Association</td>
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<td>Minor Crops Farmer Alliance</td>
<td>North Central Weed Science Society</td>
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<td>Oregonians for Food &amp; Shelter</td>
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<td>Pesticide Policy Coalition</td>
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Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
Professional Landcare Network
Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
SC Fertilizer Agrichemicals 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
Texas Vegetation Management Association
United Fresh Produce Association
U.S. Apple Association
USA Rice Federation
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Forestry Association
Washington Friends of Farm & Forests
Washington State Potato Commission
Weed Science Society of America
Western Growers
Western Plant Health Association
Western Society of Weed Science
Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association
Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association
Wyoming Ag Business Association
Wyoming Crop Improvement Association
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association