ISSUE: The Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018 (PRIA) established a framework for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) when registering pesticides. The original intent has been to create a more predictable and effective evaluation process for affected pesticide decisions by coupling the collection of fees with specific decision review periods.

Background: The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) amendments of 1988 put in place new and significant fees on registered pesticide products in order to provide the EPA with added resources to accomplish re-registration. Prior to implementation of PRIA in 2004, there was little certainty for registration packages moving through the EPA.

PRIA established a framework for the EPA when registering pesticides, as the original intent has been to create a more predictable and effective evaluation process for affected pesticide decisions by coupling the collection of fees with specific decision review periods. The enactment of PRIA changed that experience for product registrants and all stakeholders. The success of PRIA has led to process improvements in the EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), established a dedicated funding stream for the Agency, created specific block grants for training and education programs, and created certainty.

CURRENT STATUS: On March 8, 2019, PRIA was signed into law (P.L. 116-8), following adoption in both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives of the PRIA Act (S. 483). The measure, sponsored by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) and co-sponsored by Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), includes technical changes and extends authority for the EPA to collect updated pesticide registration and maintenance fees through FY 2023.

The reauthorization:

- Provides for the annual collection of $31 million in product maintenance fees through 2023 (an increase of $22.4 million over the seven years covered by PRIA 4);
- Caps the fees paid by small businesses;
- Adds Endangered Species Act reviews, risk reduction, and information technology system enhancements to the eligible uses of the funds collected;
- Designates $500,000 per year for the establishment of efficacy guidelines for products to address invertebrate pests of significant public health or economic consequence.

NEEDED ACTION: Express appreciation to those Members of Congress instrumental or supportive of PRIA adoption.