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More than 300 Agriculture, Environment, Academic, & Other Industry Groups Call for Congress to Reaffirm Federal Pesticide Preemption



Washington, D.C. November 14, 2022. In a **letter** to congressional leadership, more than 300 agriculture, environment, academic, infrastructure, and other stakeholder groups are calling on Congress to reaffirm federal pesticide preemption on labeling and packaging. Failing to do so, the groups warn, could hold disastrous consequences for our food security, the environment, public health, vital infrastructure, and other uses where pesticides provide important societal benefits.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act is clear that states "shall not impose or continue in effect any requirements for labeling or packaging in addition to or different from those required" by the federal government. However, in recent years, states have sought to impose health claim label requirements that directly contradict federal findings. This not only risks eroding public trust in science and evidence-based regulation, but also opens the door for a patchwork of conflicting state and municipal labels that could disrupt commerce and limit access to vital tools.

The letter, which drew 332 signers, calls on Congress to reaffirm that states may not impose additional labeling or packaging requirements that conflict with federal findings.

Brad Doyle, soy farmer from Arkansas and president of the **American Soybean Association**, said, "Farmers and other pesticide users need predictable access to these tools to protect their crops and maintain important conservation practices. Contradictory state labels that would create an unworkable patchwork risk disrupting access to pesticides, which would harm our food supply and the ability to protect our environment."

"Science-based crop protection tools are critical to the success of America's farmers," said **National Corn Growers Association** President Tom Haag. "State labels that conflict with EPA's scientific guidance threaten public confidence in EPA's authority and science-based regulation and contributes to the misunderstanding of the critical role pesticides play in sustainably feeding a growing world."

"Between drought, war and supply chain issues, farmers' viability to feed the world is now more critical than ever," said Nicole Berg, Washington state wheat farmer and president of the **National Association of Wheat Growers**. "Farmers rely on crop protection tools to grow healthy, sustainable and affordable food. Too much is on the line to allow the emergence of an unscientific patchwork of state pesticide labels that would threaten grower access to these tools."

Many signers of the letter sent a [separate letter](#) to President Biden in May urging him to withdraw a brief submitted by the Solicitor General to the Supreme Court that erroneously suggested that state health claim labels are not preempted by federal regulatory findings. While today's letter is not specific as to when or how Congress should act, the groups are clear that action is needed to prevent this dangerous, misguided legal interpretation from undermining important societal needs.

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American Soybean Association (ASA) represents U.S. soybean farmers on domestic and international policy issues important to the soybean industry. ASA has 26 affiliated state associations representing 30 soybean-producing states and more than 500,000 soybean farmers. More information at soygrowers.com.

National Corn Growers Association, founded in 1957, represents nearly 40,000 dues-paying corn farmers nationwide and the interests of more than 300,000 growers who contribute through corn checkoff programs in their states. NCGA and its state organizations work together to create and increase opportunities for corn growers. For more information, visit ncga.com.

National Association of Wheat Growers is the primary policy representative in Washington, D.C., for wheat growers, working to ensure a better future for America's growers, the industry and the general public. NAWG works with a team of 20 state wheat grower organizations to benefit the wheat industry at the national level. From their offices on Capitol Hill, NAWG's staff members are in constant contact with state association representatives, NAWG grower leaders, members of Congress, congressional staff members, administration officials and the public. More at wheatworld.org.

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