



August 31, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Chairman
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Ranking Member
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
Chairman
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Ranking Member
1010 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow, Chairman Conaway, and Ranking Member Peterson:

I write today urging you to reject the provision in the House Resolution 2-Farm Bill that would preempt local government's pesticide protections.

In 2016, the City of Irvine, California, adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program that prioritizes use of organic pesticides in all City properties, including parks, fields, and playgrounds. This award-winning program limits exposure to any pesticides where children and the public congregate. Irvine's IPM program has served as a national model for other local governments. The City of Irvine has a history of working with the public it serves to protect those individuals that are most vulnerable, such as children who take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and have developing organ systems. By having the choice to limit the use of pesticides, Irvine has been able to reduce potential human and environment impacts.

I strongly oppose any Federal pesticide provisions that do not allow for local government decision-making processes where pesticides are concerned. This would not only preempt future ordinances, but could retroactively eliminate existing local pesticide laws.

Historically, the rights of local governmental jurisdictions under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) have been left to the states since the law's adoption. This is appropriate and should remain unchanged. I urge you to ensure the provision preempting local authority, included in the House Agriculture Committee passed Farm Bill, does not become law. I encourage you to remove the language in the Farm Bill below:

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Subtitle B, Section (b) Uniform Regulation of Pesticides, “(3) CONDITION ON MORE RESTRICTIVE REGULATION.—Section 24(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v(a)) is amended by striking ‘A State may’ and inserting ‘A State, but not a political subdivision of a State, may.’”

Local governments are more attuned to the needs of its constituents. The above listed restriction undermines the key role local government’s play in protecting the health and safety of their communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your support to oppose any local government’s pesticide protection preemptions. If you have any questions, please contact me at 949-724-6233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christina L. Shea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina L. Shea
Mayor Pro Tem

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Kamala Harris
The Honorable Mimi Walters