

Issues in the House Farm Bill Re: Pesticides Threatening Health and Environmental Protection

Subtitle C, Part 1, of Title X, entitled Regulatory Reform, contains the following provisions that threaten human health, the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to keep foods free of dangerous chemicals, and that expose the environment to even greater toxic pesticides:

- **Section 10201(3):** Permanently excludes dozens of hazardous chemicals used in industrial agriculture from human health and environmental safety reviews that are currently required under the *Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act*.
- **Section 10202:** Weakens and delays efforts to protect children, farmworkers, and public health, from dangerous pesticides by giving unprecedented authority to the USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy to review and potentially veto any environmental or human health safeguards determined to be necessary by EPA.
- **Section 10203(3):** Undermines the integrity of the *Endangered Species Act* in an unprecedented manner by delaying protections for endangered species against dangerous pesticides by giving an internal interagency workgroup a de facto veto on any efforts to protect endangered species from pesticides, which could delay and weaken critical conservation measures.
- **Section 10204:** Delays the review of hundreds of pesticides for harms to human health, endangered wildlife, and endocrine disruption until 2031, leaving potentially dangerous pesticides on the market and in widespread use without any updated protective measures.
- **Taken out of House Farm Bill—Section 10205:** Immunizes pesticide companies from their duty to warn the public about dangerous chemicals in their pesticide formulations, potentially eliminating access to the federal courts for thousands of individuals with cancer, Parkinson's disease, and other health issues scientifically linked to pesticide exposure. See [Stop Chemical Company Secrecy of Pesticide Product Hazards](#).

- **Taken out of House Farm Bill—Section 10206:** Eliminates the six-decade-old authority of state and local governments to implement additional local and state-focused restrictions on the use of dangerous pesticides to protect children, farmworkers, pollinators, public health, and the environment.
- **Taken out of House Farm Bill—Section 10207:** Erases important, long-standing safeguards to protect people and wildlife from pesticide pollution discharged directly into waterways through the *Clean Water Act* Pesticide General Permit (“PGP”), though the broad language would exempt pesticide approvals from the *Endangered Species Act*, *Clean Air Act*, and other bedrock environmental laws.

Title II

Additionally, the House Farm Bill—throughout the Conservation Title (Title II), including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program subtitle (Subtitle C), and in the Research Title (Title VII)—will codify continued reliance on petrochemical fertilizers through the promotion of “precision agriculture.” With the use of drones, satellites, and artificial intelligence, precision agriculture is touted by the industry and USDA as a great environmental achievement, focused on soil biology and lower or variable application rates of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers—but ignores the dramatic damage it causes to soil biology, complex biological communities, and the economic value of healthy ecosystems and ecosystem services that naturally cycle plant nutrients.