



Protecting American Farmers' Access To Pesticides

Clarifying U.S. Pesticide Registration and Labeling

Current Law

- 1 The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) governs pesticide use, sales, and labeling. FIFRA requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to evaluate human health, ecological risks, and safety before any pesticide can be registered.
- 2 As a part of that evaluation, the EPA undertakes a thorough scientific review for, among other things, potential carcinogenicity. The EPA can't approve a pesticide unless it confirms it doesn't cause unreasonable adverse effects to the environment or humans. The EPA also regularly evaluates all new information to guarantee the safety of existing products.
- 3 Once affirmed, **FIFRA gives the EPA the exclusive authority to determine labeling and packaging requirements**, and those labels must reflect EPA's scientific conclusions.
- 4 While FIFRA allows states to regulate the sale or use of pesticides, FIFRA prohibits states from imposing labeling requirements that are different from, or in addition to EPA's science-based labels.

The Problem

Despite the EPA's explicit labeling authority under FIFRA, some states are trying to add labeling requirements that directly contradict the EPA's decades-long scientific conclusions on the safety of specific pesticides.

Without certainty on EPA-approved, science-based nationwide labels, the availability of current and future pesticides will be in jeopardy. If farmers are forced to abandon these modern crop protection tools, many would go out of business, food prices would soar, hunger would spike, and carbon emissions would climb.

The Solution

This bill reaffirms FIFRA's explicit acknowledgment that **the EPA is the preeminent authority on pesticide labeling and packaging requirements**. The language also ensures the EPA doesn't take any position or action—including approving label requirements—that is at odds with the agency's established scientific views regarding the carcinogenicity of a particular pesticide.

Ultimately, the bill is intended to provide certainty to farmers and consumers that the tools supporting our modern agriculture system and food supply will remain safe and available.