

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Chellie Pingree
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Simpson, and Ranking Member Pingree:

The undersigned consortium of trade associations writes to request that the FY 25 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act include at least **\$166 million** in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), the minimum funding level required by the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5).

Our organizations first came together in 2004 to seek passage of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act. This legislation brought new, dedicated funds to OPP for more efficient pesticide registration and re-registration activities; it gave registrants certainty in the registration process after decades of uncertainty; it provided funding for farm worker education and training; and it brought needed funds for training for agricultural and healthcare workers.

To ensure that the fees established under PRIA enhanced – rather than supplanted – appropriations for the Office of Pesticide Programs, the law established a minimum appropriation target before PRIA fees could be collected. Since its original passage, PRIA has been reauthorized four times – in 2007, 2012, 2019 and 2022. With the reauthorization of PRIA in December 2022, pesticide registrants significantly increased the fees they pay to EPA, provided additional funding for farmworker and clinician training, and committed to including Spanish labels on all pesticide products.

Unfortunately, the FY 2023 and 2024 federal appropriations, and most annual appropriations over the past decade, have not met the law's funding target. In the latest reauthorization of PRIA, industry voluntarily increased the fees that it pays by 30%, but due to declining federal funding over the past several years, OPP has lost about 200 full-time equivalents. EPA remains unable to meet the statutory timeframes for completing the review of registration actions under the law, making it difficult for registrants to bring safer and innovative pest control solutions to growers, facilities managers, public health officials, pest control operators, lawn care

professionals, golf course superintendents, and consumers. Without adequate resources, innovations in conventional pesticides, antimicrobial products, biopesticides, and emerging technologies could be delayed for years.

We urge the Subcommittee to fund PRIA activities for FY 2025 at PRIA 5's prescribed level of \$166 million, including \$147.1 million for the Environmental Programs and Management (EP&M) account and ongoing funding in other EPA accounts that fund OPP.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council's Center for Biocide Chemistries
Animal Health Institute
Biological Products Industry Alliance
CropLife America
Council of Producers & Distributors of Agrotechnology
Household & Commercial Products Association
ISSA, The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)