



City of Encinitas

Office of
The Mayor

October 24, 2018

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

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

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

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

Catherine S. Blakespear
Mayor

Joe Mosca
Deputy Mayor

Tasha Boerner Horvath
Council Member

Tony Kranz
Council Member

Mark Muir
Council Member

Karen P. Brust
City Manager

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

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Encinitas, California, I urge you to reject the provision in House Resolution 2, the Agriculture Improvement Act referred to as the Farm Bill, which would preempt local government's pesticide protections. We strongly oppose any Federal 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.

On June 24, 2015, the City Council of the City of Encinitas adopted an adopted an Integrated Pest Management Policy that prioritizes use of organic pesticides in all City properties, including parks, fields, playgrounds, and City facilities. This policy limits exposure to pesticides where children and the public congregate. The policy also limits environmental impacts of pesticides to wildlife. As a coastal community, the City of Encinitas is also a shepherd of adjacent wetlands and creeks feeding the ocean, which are exposed to storm drain runoff. Many of these factors are not shared by a great many municipalities in the country hence, these common sense policies should be left to the discretion of local jurisdictions familiar with local issues.

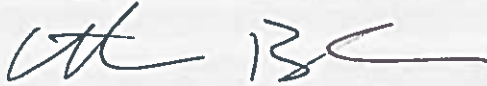
The City of Encinitas is responsible to the public it serves, and to protect those individuals that are most vulnerable, our children, who take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than do adults, and have developing organ systems. By having the choice to limit the use of pesticides, Encinitas has been able to reduce potential human and environment impacts.

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 Section 9101 preempting local authority, included in the House Agriculture Committee Farm Bill passed Farm Bill, does not become law. *I ask that you to remove the following language in the Farm Bill:*

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.'"

With respect to pesticide usage, local governments are more attuned to the needs of their constituents and the geographies within their jurisdictions. The above listed restriction undermines the key role local government plays in protecting the health and safety of their communities. Again, I urge you to remove the above provision from H.R. 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Blakespear', written in a cursive style.

Catherine S. Blakespear
Mayor of Encinitas

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Representative Darrell Issa