

May 24, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Conaway  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Gibbs  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Garrett Graves  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Reps. Shuster, Gibbs, Conaway and Graves:

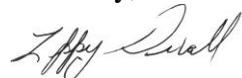
Later this week, the House is expected to vote on H.R. 953, “The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017.” This legislation has previously passed the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support, and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) urges all members of Congress to vote in favor of the bill.

H.R. 953 is narrowly crafted to clarify that lawful use of pesticides in or near navigable waters is not excessively covered under two statutes, the Clean Water Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. In doing so, the measure simply codifies EPA’s longstanding interpretation of the law before it was thrown into confusion by a 2009 court ruling, which imposed an additional layer of needless red tape on pesticide applicators. H.R. 953 corrects the duplicative requirements associated with EPA’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) pesticide permit by specifying that NPDES permits are not needed for the lawful application of EPA-labeled pesticides. This is an important fix that will reduce red tape and legal liabilities associated with the lawful use of pesticides in protecting public health and food security.

We urge all members to vote in favor of *the “Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017.”*

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall  
President

CC: Shuster, Graves, Gibbs, Defazio