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June 7, 2022

Administrator Michael Regan
United States Environment Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460

Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2010-0396, Request for Comment Period Extension, Interagency Science Consultation, and Solicitation of Peer Review Nominees with Background in Agriculture-related Sciences

Dear Administrator Regan:

I write to request an extension of the comment period for U.S. EPA's draft assessment of formaldehyde under the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) of at least 60 days. This additional time will provide an opportunity for key stakeholders, including those throughout the agricultural sector and other federal agencies with substantial equities in formaldehyde applications, an opportunity to fully review these large and complex documents. Given the substantial impact of this assessment on the agricultural sector and the requirement that the scientific review process be balanced and geographically diverse, EPA should also ensure that at least 2 of the 12 peer reviewers for this assessment have a background in an agriculture-related science.


As the Representative of Georgia's 2nd District and Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, I represent constituents and stakeholders involved in the agriculture, sustainable forestry, and chemical sector with a significant interest in this chemistry's agricultural, industrial, housing, transportation, and health care applications.

Because formaldehyde is a building block chemical used in a wide variety of agricultural settings, including for specimen preservation in laboratories, as a disinfectant in veterinary

clinics, and as a food additive for animal feeds, conclusions in EPA's draft assessment around the health effects of formaldehyde could result in regulatory actions with enormous economic impacts for this critical economic sector. Given the importance of this chemistry, I ask that the EPA provide additional time to allow agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration to adequately comment. Extending the comment period, incorporating agricultural expertise in the peer review, and re-engaging interested federal agencies would also provide greater confidence that future regulations are based on the best available science.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sanford D. Bishop, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

cc: Rodney Snyder, Senior Advisor for Agriculture, U.S. EPA