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RISK MANAGEMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1002

OFFICES:

WASHINGTON, DC
2407 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1002
PHONE: (202) 225-3631
FAX: (202) 225-2203

ALBANY
323 PINE AVENUE, SUITE 400
ALBANY, GA 31701
PHONE: (229) 439-8067
FAX: (229) 436-2099

COLUMBUS
18 NINTH STREET, SUITE 201
COLUMBUS, GA 31901
PHONE: (706) 320-9477
FAX: (706) 320-9479

MACON
300 MULBERRY STREET, SUITE 502
MACON, GA 31201
PHONE: (478) 803-2631
FAX: (478) 803-2637

Mr. Rodney Snyder
Senior Advisor for Agriculture
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
WJC Building North Room 6204M
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Snyder:

I am writing regarding the need for a robust interagency review and coordination process for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) forthcoming draft assessment of formaldehyde under the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS). EPA asked the National Academy of Sciences to review this assessment this year and, ahead of its public release, a copy of the draft assessment was shared with some federal agencies in late 2021, with a deadline to comment of a few short weeks and over the holidays. Given the importance of this chemistry and the potential economic impact to the agriculture, forestry, and small business constituents in Georgia's Second Congressional District, I am requesting that the EPA provide additional time to allow agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to adequately comment on the draft assessment.

I share EPA's interest in assuring that this assessment is based on the best available science and is subject to a rigorous and independent peer review process from the National Academy of Sciences. It is vital that the assessment fully documents how it has incorporated comments from the previous peer review as well as feedback from other federal agencies with an interest in this chemistry and any associated risks. In addition to improving the underlying assessment, substantive interagency

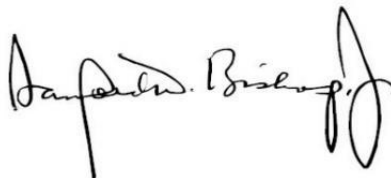
review and coordination for chemical assessments can reduce waste, minimize inconsistency between agencies, and better illuminate potential economic effects.

Given the variety of applications for formaldehyde in the agricultural sector, I am convinced that the best way to ensure that the draft assessment is of the highest quality and reflects the state of the science is to have a rigorous interagency review process by such key agencies as USDA, FDA, the Small Business Administration, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Defense. Unfortunately, my understanding is that the EPA-led interagency coordination only provided a few weeks for these agencies to comment on this several-thousand-page-assessment. In light of EPA's updated timeline for release of the assessment this year, I ask that you provide these key federal agencies at least 60 days to review the draft assessment and provide comments. Furthermore, EPA should act in a manner consistent with past practice and post those interagency comments and the EPA's responses at the time the draft assessment is released and prior to the peer review.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact Brennan Randel on my staff at 202-225-3631 or brennan.randel@mail.house.gov.

Warmest regards,

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