

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write today to express our strong opposition to any efforts to limit existing state and local authority to regulate pesticides--including restrictions on state labeling requirements or state and local regulatory processes--in the upcoming Farm Bill or any other legislation.

More than thirty states and hundreds of cities and counties have adopted pesticide laws and ordinances to protect workers, children, rural communities, and wildlife. State and local governments have long acted to supplement federal pesticide laws to protect people from the serious health problems--including neurological and behavioral issues, cancer, and Parkinson's Disease--that can be caused by unsafe exposure to pesticides. States and localities have implemented protective measures that fit their local needs, such as posting warnings when pesticides have been sprayed near schools and parks, protecting drinking water supplies, protecting and informing workers, and restricting the use of some pesticides on playgrounds. States and localities have also taken measures to protect endangered species that are especially susceptible to pesticides, like pollinators.

In particular, many state, county, and local governments have taken steps to restrict pesticide use near schools to protect children, including in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

While federal regulations provide a base level of protection against the harms of pesticides, only localities and states are in the position to implement protective measures that are designed specifically to meet the needs of their citizens. As a result, under Federal Insecticide, Fungicide

and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), states and localities have long had the authority to impose standards that are stricter than federal requirements or require warnings and other information designed to allow consumers to make informed decisions about pesticide use and exposure. Preempting these state and local laws prevents state and local officials from addressing local needs in favor of a one-size-fits-all approach.

Additionally, we are strongly opposed to the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act (H.R. 4288), or any similar proposal, that would forbid states from requiring manufacturers to disclose known risks about their pesticide products, such as carcinogenicity. Preemption proposals like these would eliminate laws that give consumers the ability to make informed decisions about using a pesticide product, based on the product's risks to their health. These proposals would also take away consumers' opportunity for redress if a manufacturer fails to issue warnings.

We urge you to oppose all efforts to preempt state and local authority to regulate pesticides.

Sincerely,



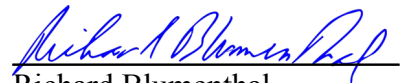
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



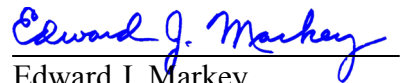
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



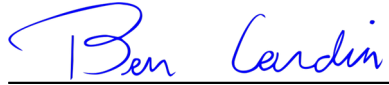
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



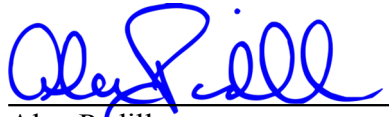
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



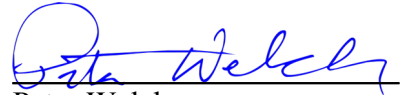
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



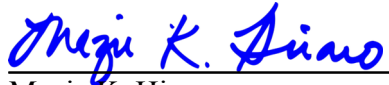
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



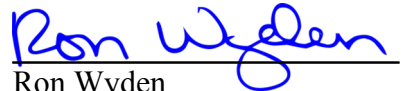
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



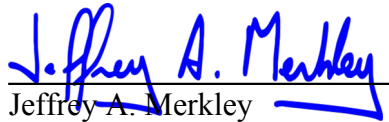
Peter Welch
United States Senator



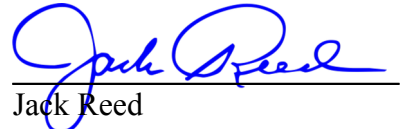
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator




Jack Reed
United States Senator



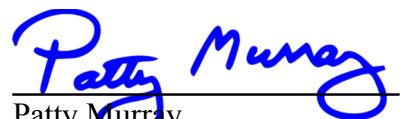
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



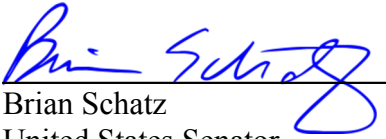
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

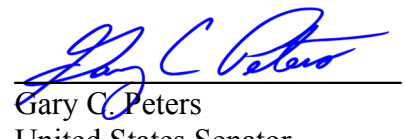


Laphonza Butler
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator


Brian Schatz
United States Senator


Gary C. Peters
United States Senator