

July 31, 2013

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H 307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H 307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Re. Full Committee Markup of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill, FY 2014

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of our members and supporters we urge you to strike section 449 from the House Fiscal Year 2014 Interior and Environment Appropriations Act. This section will prohibit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from fulfilling its decision to phase-out sulfuranyl fluoride food-related uses.

Section 449 on sulfuranyl fluoride reads as follows:

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to prepare and finalize an order under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a) that in any way removes, withdraws, revokes, or stays tolerances for the pesticide chemical sulfuranyl fluoride if that final order takes into consideration aggregate or cumulative exposure to other substances related to sulfuranyl fluoride or its metabolites or degradates.

In 2006, Fluoride Action Network, Beyond Pesticides and Environmental Working Group petitioned EPA to revoke all previously approved food-related uses for sulfuranyl fluoride. The EPA Office of Pesticide Programs released a revised sulfuranyl fluoride human health risk assessment finding that aggregate exposure for infants and children under the age of seven exceeds the chemical's safe reference dose level. As a result, EPA proposed an order to cancel all allowable pesticide residue levels (tolerances) and phase out all food-related uses of sulfuranyl fluoride over a three-year period. Order Granting Objections to Tolerances and Denying Request for a Stay: Sulfuranyl Fluoride, 76 Fed. Reg. 3,422 (Jan. 19, 2011).

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 301 *et seq.*, as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act, Pub. L. No. 104-170, 110 Stat. 1489 (1996), requires EPA to ensure that aggregate uses of pesticides meet a health-protective safety standard. EPA must be able to meet its Congressional mandate to protect vulnerable populations such as children from chemical exposures, particularly to chemicals used in pesticides.

Sulfuryl fluoride rapidly breaks down into the fluoride anion in the human body and on treated foods. A 2006 fluoride report by the National Academy of Sciences determined that Americans are at risk of excessive fluoride intake, which could weaken teeth and bones. See Nat'l Academy of Sciences, Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA's Standards (2006). NAS also noted an emerging body of science that implicates fluoride in other serious health problems, including neurotoxicity, hormone disruption and the rare bone cancer osteosarcoma. Id.

In view of this finding, and others, sulfuryl fluoride poses a risk to human health. Therefore, we urge the House Appropriations Committee to remove section 449 from the bill. Doing so will ensure that EPA can continue to fulfill Congress' longstanding interest in protecting children's health.

Sincerely,



Jay Feldman
Executive Director
Beyond Pesticides



Heather White
Executive Director
Environmental Working Group



Paul Connett, PhD
Director
Fluoride Action Network

cc. Members of House Appropriation Committee