

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 8, 2011

Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 – The Capitol
Washington, DC 20001

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
S-230 – The Capitol
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

We request your leadership in helping to resolve the following issue at the earliest possible opportunity.

As you are aware, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently finalized its Pesticide General Permit (PGP) under the Clean Water Act (CWA), pursuant to a ruling by the Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit in *National Cotton Council v. EPA*. Under this new permitting system, certain pesticide applicators will be required to meet PGP or other permitting requirements in addition to regulation under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

On March 31, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011, which would address *National Cotton Council v. EPA*. This legislation then passed the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry on June 21 by voice vote.

We are aware that efforts had been made to come to a bipartisan resolution before these new permitting requirements went into effect. However, we believe there is still an opportunity to resolve this matter in a way that will protect the environment while avoiding undue costs on rural communities and municipalities nationwide. Thus, it is our sincere hope that you will allot floor time for the Senate to have a full, open debate on this matter.

While we recognize that many important legislative items vie for limited floor time, this is a rare opportunity to demonstrate to the American public that Democrats and Republicans are capable of working together to address important issues.

Sincerely,



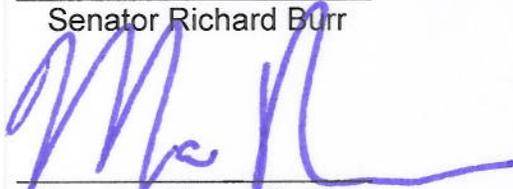
Senator Mike Crapo



Senator Kay Hagan



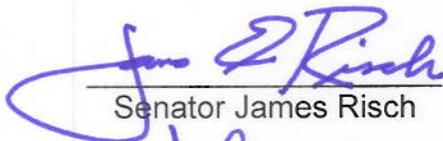
Senator Richard Burr



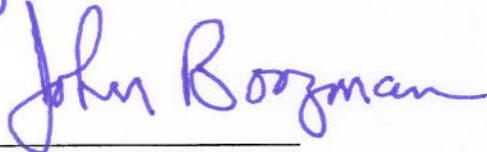
Senator Marco Rubio



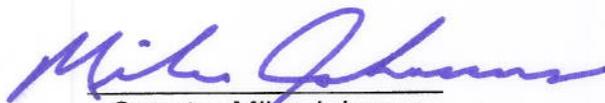
Senator David Vitter



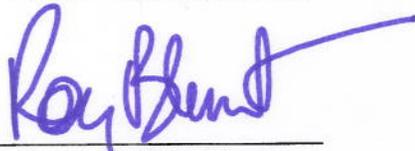
Senator James Risch



Senator John Boozman



Senator Mike Johanns



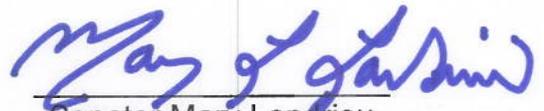
Senator Roy Blunt



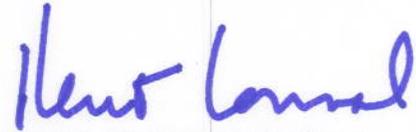
Senator Rob Portman



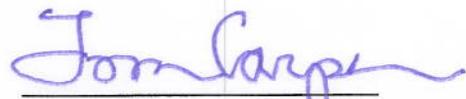
Senator Richard Lugar



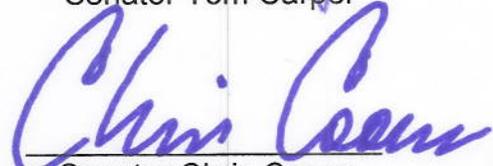
Senator Mary Landrieu



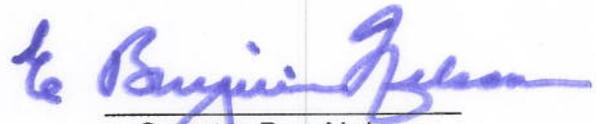
Senator Kent Conrad



Senator Tom Carper



Senator Chris Coons



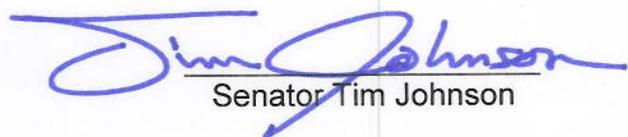
Senator Ben Nelson



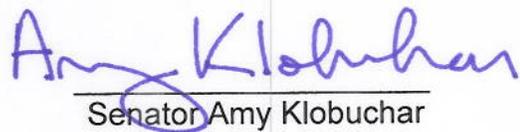
Senator Max Baucus



Senator Claire McCaskill

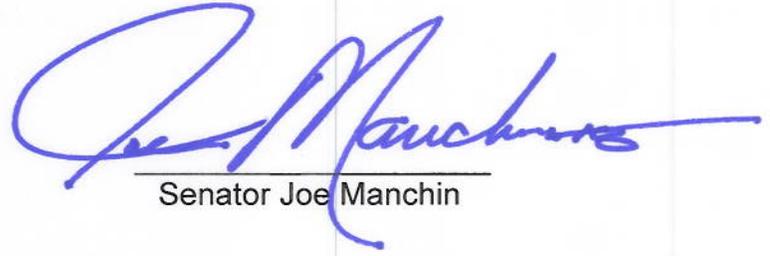


Senator Tim Johnson

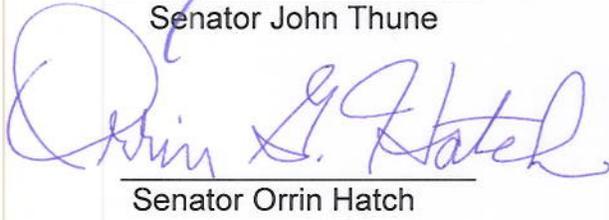


Senator Amy Klobuchar


Senator John Hoeven


Senator Joe Manchin


Senator John Thune


Senator Orrin Hatch


Senator Lamar Alexander