

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 14, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

We are frustrated and concerned that in over two years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has failed to create the Agriculture-Related Committee within its Science Advisory Board (SAB). On February 7, 2014, the Agricultural Act of 2014 was signed into law (Pub.L. 113-79). Section 12307 of the Act directed the EPA to “establish a standing agriculture-related committee” to provide farmers a stronger voice in the federal rule making process regarding regulations which impact agriculture.

On December 10, 2014, nearly one year after this provision was signed into law, the EPA released a Federal Register Notice announcing its establishment of the SAB Agricultural Science Committee and set a deadline of January 26, 2015, to nominate members. On January 26, 2015, the EPA extended the nomination deadline to March 30, 2015. Eventually, on August 19, 2015, after creating a list of 88 potential candidates, the EPA invited public comment on the candidates.

Since the public comment deadline on September 8, 2015, the EPA has failed, despite numerous requests, to keep Members, who supported this important provision, informed of meaningful actions or updates regarding the process. Our questions regarding the implementation of the committee have been met with empty responses, which point to a further delayed implementation process.

To our knowledge, all other components of the Act have been successfully implemented. Unfortunately, the EPA’s inability to timely execute the creation of the Agriculture Science Committee, pursuant to Section 12307, has only fueled the growing disconnect between the agriculture community in rural America and the EPA.

To bridge this gap, it is vital the EPA establish the Agriculture Science Committee. Please respond to this request providing when you anticipate publishing the final candidate list. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,


Rodney Davis
Member of Congress


Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress


Mike Conaway
Member of Congress


Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress


David Rouzer
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Tim Walz
Member of Congress


Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress


Mike Bost
Member of Congress

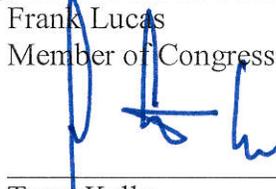

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress


Austin Scott
Member of Congress


Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress


Frank Lucas
Member of Congress


Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

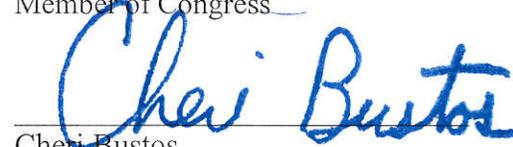

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress


Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress


Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress

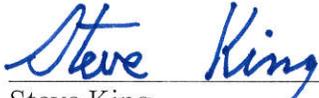

Brad Ashford
Member of Congress


David Scott
Member of Congress


Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



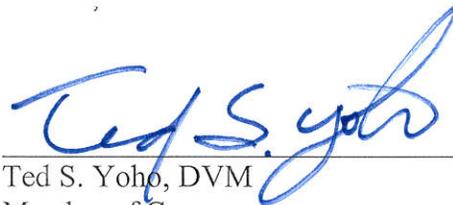
Ralph Abraham, MD
Member of Congress



Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



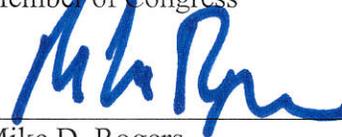
Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress



Gwen Graham
Member of Congress