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Congress of the United States

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FACT SHEET

FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE AND RODENTICIDE REFORM ACT

H.R. 3818 and S. 1774

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Reform Act was introduced in the House (H.R. 3818) by Congressmen Tom Harkin and George Brown, and in the Senate (S. 1774) by Senators William Proxmire and Patrick Leahy on August 5, 1983.

The FIFRA Reform Act will correct serious deficiencies in the existing federal pesticide control law. Among other things, the reform legislation will:

1. Improve protection for humans exposed to pesticides, with particular emphasis on persons handling regulated chemicals, farmers and farmworkers, and children and pregnant women;
2. Implement a more protective pesticide registration program at EPA by closing numerous loopholes in the current law which allow safety standards to be circumvented;
3. Ensure adequate enforcement of federal law, and provide legal remedies for persons who have been injured by pesticides;
4. Strengthen public participation in the decision making process at EPA so that all interests are represented before a registration decision is made, as well as after an application is granted; and
5. Guarantee that pesticide products are tested for effectiveness in order to substantiate the manufacturer's claims of performance characteristics.

A coalition of 30 public health, labor, environmental, consumer, farm and farmworker groups have endorsed the reform measure. Coalition members maintain that inadequacies in the current law have resulted in numerous cases of contaminated food and drinking water, dangerously high pesticide residues in people's homes, poor worker protection standards, and chemical drift over towns, all of which lead to excessive risk of pesticide exposure, particularly for children and pregnant women.

Some of the organizations that support the FIFRA Reform Act include:

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Public Health Association
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Clean Water Action Project
Consumer Federation of America
Defenders of Wildlife
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Policy Center
Environmental Task Force
Farmworker Justice Fund
Food and Allied Service Trades, AFL-CIO
Friends of the Earth
League of Conservation Voters
National Audubon Society
National Coalition Against Misuse of Pesticides
National Demonstration Water Project
National Women's Health Network
Natural Resources Defense Council
Public Voice for Food and Health Policy
Rachel Carson Council
Rural Coalition
Sierra Club
Urban Environment Conference
United Farmworkers of America, AFL-CIO

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