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Facsimile Transmittal**Joe Lee**

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Date: March 19, 1998

Attention: Nancy Hernreich

To: OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The White House

Fax: (202)456-6703

Number of pages (including this cover): 5

Comment(s): Nancy, Congressman Marion Berry has assured me that all the proper entities have been contacted and as an industry we are still not satisfied that our concerns have been heard. He suggested that I contact you and try to set up a meeting with President Clinton to fully inform him of how this matter is being handled and the serious impact to the country. A delegation including the following people would be helpful in presenting the problem we as an industry are facing:

Representative Marion Berry (AR)
Representative Charlie Stenholm (TX)
Cindy Baker, Gowan Company
Mike Sanders, Jimmy Sanders, Inc.
Joe Lee

I have also included, in this fax, a memo from the Arkansas State Plant Board concerning this issue. I look forward to hearing from you soon and certainly appreciate your help as well as Karl's. Thanks!

3-25-98

Send to Burkhardt?

Yes ☒No ☐

BC

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March 18, 1998

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In all the years that Deborah and I have known you, we've tried hard to never impose in anyway on our friendship with you and the many wonderful people we have met through our association. I hope you don't feel that this letter violates that bond, but an issue has been brought to our attention that could have a devastating impact on us and ultimately the country and beyond.

About nineteen months ago you signed into the law, the Food Quality Protection Act(FQPA). The law was intended to scientifically update the way we regulate crop protection materials and ensure protection of infants and children. The principles and objectives of the law are laudable and important. Having lived much of your life in and around agriculture, I don't have to tell you that landowners and farmers are among the worlds leading advocates for environmental preservation and conservation. We welcome the EPA's activism and regulation as long as their action is based on real scientific data and not overly conservative assumptions presented by single minded environmentalists.

However, it appears the EPA has chosen to implement the law in a way that is inconsistent with Congress' intent and will unnecessarily take important tools away from our farmers. Several individual members of Congress, state delegations, the House Committee on Agriculture and most recently the House Commerce Committee have all written to Carol Browner expressing their concern over implementation policies and the negative potential they will have for agriculture. The message from Congress is clear they intended for EPA to use sound science and available data to make decisions. They specifically added language that would allow EPA to require registrants to submit data. Yet EPA still insists they will not issue "data call-ins" so they can gather actual data on how these products are used and what, if any, threat they may pose to humans or the environment.

After meeting with various representatives from the industry as well as Don Alexander, director of the Arkansas State Plant Board, I believe this issue has reached a critical stage. If we don't get EPA to slow down, gather data and apply that data so that better scientific decisions can be made, we are going to lose critical products and many crops and farmers will be wiped out.

Joe Lee

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March 19, 1998

The most urgent issue facing our industry and everyone who consumes our agricultural commodities is the impending action that EPA will take regarding the organophosphates(OPs) possibly this summer. The policies they are putting in place right now as part of the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act could unnecessarily eliminate important uses of OPs and cause serious disaster in agricultural production. Because organophosphates are currently used on approximately 70% of the nation's acres treated for insects, it is easy to understand the concern and apprehension about this issue.

I know that you are very busy with many important issues, but I also know of your interest in the agricultural well-being of this country. I would welcome and appreciate any opportunity to discuss this issue with you. Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,



Joe Lee

AR-19-98 THU 9:44

AR PLANT BOARD

FAX NO. 5012253590

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Don Alexander
Director

ARKANSAS
STATE PLANT
BOARD

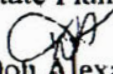
P.O. Box 1069 ■ Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Phone (501) 225-1588
Fax (501) 225-3590

March 13, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Plant Board Members

FROM: 
Don Alexander

SUBJECT: Food Quality Protection Act

Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) replaced the outdated Delaney Clause with a unified safety standard, instituted workable protection for infants and children, established parameters for comprehensive risk assessment, ensured uniformity of safety standards, and improve consumer access to dietary information, among other provisions. FQPA's effective date was August 3, 1996, thus Environmental Protection Agency must set tolerances of pesticides to ensure "reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to pesticide chemical including all anticipated dietary exposures and all other exposures for which there is reliable information." The reassessment time line is as follows:

- Group 1 (33% - due 8/3/99)
 - Organophosphates, carbamates, organochlorines
 - Probable carcinogens (B1 & B2)
 - High-hazard inert ingredients
- Group 2 (33%) - due 8/3/02
 - all remaining pesticides subject to reregistration
- Group 3 (33%) - due 8/3/06
 - Biological pesticides & remaining inert ingredients

Group 1 insecticide-treated acres that secure OPS/carbamates in Arkansas is 64%. The percentage is not as high as many other states such as Illinois and South Dakota, 87% to 88%, respectively, but with no alternative, losing these insecticides would devastate agriculture unnecessarily. EPA plans to use default assumptions which will result in numerous cancellations

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AR PLANT BOARD

FAX NO. 5012253590

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State Plant Board Members

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of tolerances beginning as early as 1998. The agency has broad authority to delay the effective date of an order or regulation to provide registrants and others the opportunity to develop data to support the continuation of the tolerance.

DA:lg