

STATE OF KANSAS



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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

September 13, 2022

Dr. Elissa Reaves
Director, Pesticide Re-Evaluation Division
Office of Pesticide Programs
Environmental Protection Agency
1201 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Proposed Revisions to the Atrazine Interim Registration Review Decision
EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0266

Dear Director Reaves:

Kansas agriculture is the state's largest economic driver, contributing \$76 billion to the state's economy. Kansas farmers and ranchers feed not only Kansans but also people around the world. In order to produce crops and animal proteins, farmers need safe and effective tools to produce quality sustainable food for the world. Atrazine has been an important tool that controls weeds destructive to many of my state's most valuable agriculture products since it was first registered as an herbicide over 60 years ago.

Recent proposed changes to the usage and label requirements of atrazine threaten Kansas farmers ability to effectively control weeds, leading to expensive solutions to boost yields.

As Governor of Kansas, I strongly urge the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reconsider proposed changes that would overly burden agricultural producers and likely raise commodity prices. Instead, the EPA should rely on proven scientific studies, vetted through a scientific advisory panel, before lowering the approved usage levels of atrazine and modifying the label requirements.

Over the past 64 years, atrazine has been studied time and time again. Nearly 7,000 scientific studies have established its safety. It is critical that our country's regulatory processes be based on sound science and credible data. The proposed changes to the usage levels of atrazine ignore proven scientific data and jeopardize Kansas famers' ability to continue to be a worldwide leader in producing safe, bountiful crops and the livestock those crops feed. They also threaten the Kansas agricultural community's recent achievement of producing over \$5 billion in agricultural exports for the first time in recorded history.

Finally, I am concerned about the effect it would have if the EPA were perceived to make a decision on a long-tested product without the most thorough level of scientific review. I strongly recommend that you incorporate a science advisory panel to ensure that all scientific studies addressing atrazine safety and effectiveness are considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. Your review and consideration is appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Kelly".

Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas