**Julia Wickard Joins IDEM**  
  
Julia Wickard has joined the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) as the Director of Government Affairs and Agriculture Liaison. Many of you will know of Julia from her former post as the State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Agency in the State of Indiana. Our team will work to develop a relationship with Julia and introduce her to members.  
  
  
**U.S. EPA Reporting for Animal Feeding Operations Conference Call**  
The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives is hosting a conference call on the court ruling vacating the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) 2008 Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) exemption rule from Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) reporting. Conference Call Details: Date: May 2, 2017; Time: 2:00 p.m. EDT; Call Number: 1 (240) 669-5802; Conference ID: 550349.  
  
**Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 Introduced in Senate  
Source: The Fertilizer Institute**  
  
On Wednesday, Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) introduced the bipartisan Regulatory Accountability Act of 2017 (RAA).<[http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20Bill%20Text.pdf<http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20Bill%20Text.pdf>](http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20Bill%20Text.pdf%3Chttp://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20Bill%20Text.pdf%3E)> The RAA, based on executive orders from the past five presidents, has a goal of creating a more transparent, accountable regulatory process that would yield more effective regulatory outcomes for American businesses.  
  
Specifically, the bill would do the following: require effective cost-benefit analysis; improve transparency and accountability in the federal regulatory process; provide certainty for businesses and consumers; create an automatic review process for major regulations; allow federal agency hearings on the most significant regulations.  
  
Click here<[http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20Summary.pdf<http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20Summary.pdf>](http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20Summary.pdf%3Chttp://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20Summary.pdf%3E)> to view a summary of the bill.  
Click here<[http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20House%20vs%20Senate%20Comparison.pdf<http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20House%20vs%20Senate%20Comparison.pdf>](http://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20House%20vs%20Senate%20Comparison.pdf%3Chttp://tfifile.org/cmica/RAA%20House%20vs%20Senate%20Comparison.pdf%3E)> to view a comparison of the House and Senate bills.  
  
On February 6, 2017, TFI joined more than 600 organizations and businesses in sending a letter<[http://tfifile.org/cmica/170206\_Coalition\_RegulatoryAccountabilityAct\_McConnell\_Schumer.pdf<http://tfifile.org/cmica/170206\_Coalition\_RegulatoryAccountabilityAct\_McConnell\_Schumer.pdf>](http://tfifile.org/cmica/170206_Coalition_RegulatoryAccountabilityAct_McConnell_Schumer.pdf%3Chttp://tfifile.org/cmica/170206_Coalition_RegulatoryAccountabilityAct_McConnell_Schumer.pdf%3E)> to Senate leadership urging them to consider and pass the RAA in the Senate. The House passed its version of the RAA on January 11, 2017.<[https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+5%22%5D%7D&r=1<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+5%22%5D%7D&r=1>](https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+5%22%5D%7D&r=1%3Chttps://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22HR+5%22%5D%7D&r=1%3E)>  
  
While there are other bills that seek to make changes to the regulatory process, the Senate’s RAA is the bill that seems to have potential to move through the Senate. As the process moves forward, TFI will seek opportunities to provide members of Congress with real-world examples of how the fertilizer industry would benefit from an improved regulatory process.