

August 5, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Mail Code: 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler,

We are writing you today as a coalition of interested agriculture groups in Georgia to encourage the timely registration decision of a vitally important tool to our farmers, Dicamba. While the crops are still in the field for 2020, Georgia's farmers will soon be making planting decisions for 2021 and will likewise be ordering seed and crop protection platforms. We ask that the Agency issue new, simple, and understandable registrations for the Dicamba products Xtendimax, Engenia, and FeXapan.

As the state's largest industry, agriculture is vitally important to the strength and stability of Georgia's economy. Cotton and soybean production play a large role in that strength. Weeds are the number one culprit for decreased yields in these row crops, and we are unaware of any chemistry that has produced the results achieved by the use of Dicamba. This herbicide has been extremely effective in producing positive yield results for growers, and we believe that a multi-year label is necessary for Georgia's agricultural economy to remain robust and continue thriving.

In partnership with the EPA, Georgia's applicator trainings have been effective in managing this technology and have nearly eliminated the concerns and issues expressed in other parts of the country. These programs, developed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, have effectively reduced pesticide drift complaints in our state by more than 77%. This reduction in drift issues is even more impressive when you consider the exponential increase in use of technology over the past five years. We believe that the rigorous training system in Georgia has raised the bar for similar trainings in other states. Our farmers, agriculture retailers, and applicators have not only made significant investments in Dicamba tolerant crops but have also made significant strides in the safe and productive use of the product.

We appreciate EPA's efforts to find a sensible solution to the difficult situation in which our farmers find themselves due to the unjust ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We urge you to use all available resources to make a timely decision in favor of new labels for these vital products.

Sincerely,

Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Georgia Farm Bureau  
AgGeorgia Farm Credit  
Georgia Cotton Commission  
Georgia Plant Food Educational Society  
Georgia Crop Production Alliance

CC:

Senator David Perdue

Senator Kelly Loeffler

Congressman Austin Scott

Congressman Rick Allen

Congressman David Scott

Congressman Sanford Bishop

Congressman Buddy Carter