

October 3, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso and Ranking Member Carper,

We, the undersigned organizations, write in support of Dr. Michael Dourson to be confirmed as the next Assistant Administrator of the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We ask the Environment and Public Works Committee to move swiftly to confirm his nomination.

The agriculture community is reliant on safe and effective crop protection tools to manage the pests, pathogens and weeds that negatively impact our crops each year. These products require rigorous assessment and evaluation by the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), under OCSPP, in order to be registered and re-registered for use. In order to ensure that farmers have access to the innovation needed to meet our growing food demand, it is imperative that OPP has the staff and expertise needed as well as engaged and knowledgeable Assistant Administrator at OCSPP to oversee and provide direction to the process.

Fortunately, Dr. Dourson's background makes him extremely qualified for the role of OCSPP Assistant Administrator. He has extensive experience in risk assessment and toxicology, as an academic, government regulator and in the private sectors. While at EPA, he was awarded the Arnold J. Lehman award from the Society of Toxicology (SOT) and the International Achievement Award by the International Society of Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology. He is also a fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and a fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis (SRA).

The knowledge and expertise that Dr. Michael Dourson would bring to the role of OCSPP Assistant Administrator would be welcomed by the agriculture community. Again, we respectfully request that the Committee move to confirm his nomination so that he may be considered by the full Senate at the earliest date possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation  
AmericanHort  
American Soybean Association  
American Sugar Alliance  
California Fresh Fruit Association

California Specialty Crops Council  
Cranberry Institute  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
National Barley Growers Association  
National Christmas Tree Association  
National Corn Growers Association  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Potato Council  
National Sorghum Producers  
National Sunflower Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Society of American Florists  
Texas Citrus Mutual  
USApple  
US Canola Association  
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council  
USA Rice  
U.S. Rice Producers Association