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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND
RISK MANAGEMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HORTICULTURE, RESEARCH, BIOTECHNOLOGY,
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Science Advisory Board
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) begins selecting individuals for the new Agriculture-related committee within the Science Advisory Board (SAB) I expect your agency to follow the Congressional intent behind this important provision.

From the proposed rule on Waters of the United States (WOTUS) to treating milk spills like oil spills, it is clear to me that there is a strong disconnect between the agriculture community in rural America and the EPA. Frankly, many farmers and producers do not feel like the EPA is listening to them. To bridge this trust gap, during the 2013-14 Farm Bill, I fought to give agricultural producers a seat at the table on EPA's SAB (Section 12307).

The only way to achieve this goal is to ensure that individuals with real-world production agriculture experience, and not just scientific expertise, are selected to the Agriculture-related committee of the SAB. I am asking you, as the author of this provision, to follow Congress' intent when making your selections.

We had the opportunity to converse on this Congressional intent during your appearance before a joint House and Senate hearing regarding WOTUS regulations on February 4, 2015. I appreciate what you said regarding your enthusiasm for this panel so that early on in the regulatory process we can hear what stakeholders have to say. Again, the only way to ensure that good technical advice will be given is to have individuals with real world experience in production agriculture selected for this panel within the SAB.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis

Member of Congress

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cc: Mr. Thomas Carpenter, Science Advisory Board
Mr. Ron Carleton, Office of the Administrator, EPA
Ms. Alison Wiedeman, Office of Water, EPA
Secretary Tom Vilsack, USDA
Under Secretary Cathie Woteki, USDA Research, Extension and Economics
