

January 9, 2015

Ms. Stephanie Sanzone, DFO
Agricultural Science Committee
Science Advisory Board
US Environmental Protection Agency

RE: Request for 60-day extension of the period for public nominations of scientific experts to be considered for appointment to the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) Agricultural Science Committee

Dear Ms. Sanzone:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request a 60-day extension of the period for public nominations of scientific experts to be considered for appointment to the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) Agricultural Science Committee.

We ask for this extension due to the tremendously important role the Committee will play in the work of the SAB. The agricultural community is engaged in an extensive effort to identify and advance high quality scientists and participants in the many areas of expertise listed in the request for nominations. Given the notice's release during the holidays, it is challenging to engage candidates while allowing enough time for them to determine if they can serve in this capacity.

Additionally, the arrival of EPA's new Agricultural Counselor, Ron Carelton, marks a substantial change in the important relationship between the agency and the community that the SAB panel will represent. More time provides Mr. Carelton an opportunity understand the role the Committee will serve within the SAB and to provide counsel to the Administrator in the selection of a balanced panel.

We believe that the caliber, breadth and depth of the candidates nominated, as well as the quality of the work of the SAB, will be considerably improved if you grant this request for more time to submit nominations. We respectfully ask for your due consideration of our request for additional 60 days to submit nominations.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
AmericanHort
American Seed Trade Association
Biotechnology Industry Organization
California Specialty Crops Council
CropLife America
Growth Energy
Minor Crop Farmer Alliance
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
Northwest Horticultural Council
Pesticide Policy Coalition
Society of American Florists
The Fertilizer Institute
United Fresh Produce Association
Western Growers Association

cc: Administrator Gina McCarthy, EPA
Mr. Ron Carelton, 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