



1400 K Street, Suite 400 • Sacramento, California 95814
Phone: 916.658.8200 Fax: 916.658.8240
www.cacities.org

October 16, 2018

The Honorable Jim Costa
U.S. House of Representatives
2081 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Dunham
U.S. House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward R. Royce
U.S. House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Costa, Representative Dunham, Representative Waters and Representative Royce:

On behalf of the 482 cities and towns in the State of California, the League of California Cities® appreciates your leadership on the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization and dedication to passing a final Farm Bill in a timely manner. As the Farm Bill Conference Committee prepares to meet to negotiate the differences between the House's *Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018* and the Senate's *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018*, I write to share our opposition to a key provision in the House bill that would preempt local authority.

Title IX Horticulture, Section 9101 – Would preempt local pesticide regulations by preventing local governments from adopting pesticide regulations that are more stringent than federal rules.

Local governments have not historically been preempted from establishing more stringent regulation of pesticides. In fact, many communities across the country and many within California have already passed local ordinances restricting pesticide use. Local leaders should not be prohibited from being responsive to the needs of their residents.

We oppose any federal provision that would preempt such local authority. Section 9101 would preempt local authority to regulate pesticides at the local level by preventing cities and towns from adopting pesticide regulations that are more stringent than federal rules, even if the local government deems a pesticide to be harmful to health or the environment. While the provision allows a state to adopt more stringent regulations, Section 9101 would limit local government ability to protect residents from potential hazards pesticides may pose.

We urge you reject this provision in Section 9101 in the final Farm Bill Conference Report. Please contact Erin Evans-Fudem, Legislative Representative, at (916)658-8250 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director

cc: California Congressional Delegation