



September 26, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts, Ranking Member Stabenow, Chairman Conaway, and Ranking Member Peterson:

I am writing on behalf of the City Council for the City of Irvine, California, who on September 25, 2018, took action to urge you to reject the provision in House Resolution 2, the Agriculture Improvement Act referred to as the Farm Bill, which would preempt local government's pesticide protections.

We strongly oppose any Federal provisions that do not allow for local government decision-making processes where pesticides are concerned. This would not only preempt future ordinances, but could retroactively eliminate existing local pesticide laws.

Our Irvine residents asked us, their elected representatives, to change how and where pesticides were used. In 2016, the City of Irvine, California, adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program that prioritizes use of organic pesticides in all City properties, including parks, fields, and playgrounds. This award-winning national model limits exposure to pesticides where children and the public congregate. The City of Irvine was responsive to the public it serves to protect those individuals that are most vulnerable, our children who take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and have developing organ systems. By having the choice to limit the use of pesticides, Irvine has been able to reduce potential human and environment impacts.

Historically, the rights of local governmental jurisdictions under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) have been left to the states since the law's adoption. This is appropriate and should remain unchanged. I urge you to ensure Section 9101 preempting local authority, included in the House Agriculture Committee

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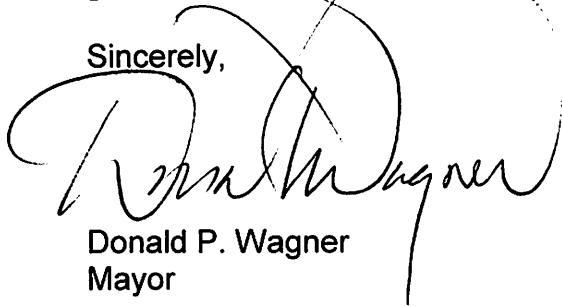
passed Farm Bill, does not become law. I encourage you to remove the language in the Farm Bill below:

Subtitle B, Section (b) Uniform Regulation of Pesticides, "(3) CONDITION ON MORE RESTRICTIVE REGULATION.—Section 24(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136v(a)) is amended by striking 'A State may' and inserting 'A State, but not a political subdivision of a State, may.'"

Local governments are more attuned to the needs of its constituents. The above listed restriction undermines the key role local governments play in protecting the health and safety of their communities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and your support to oppose any local government's pesticide protection preemptions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald P. Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Donald P. Wagner  
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Kamala Harris  
The Honorable Mimi Walters