

Oral Testimony of Beau Greenwood
Executive Vice President, CropLife America
Before the House Agriculture Committee
To Review PRIA Reauthorization
February 14, 2017

Good morning Chairman Davis, Chairman Conaway, Ranking Member Peterson, Ranking Member Lujan Grisham and Members of the Committee. I am Beau Greenwood and I am the Executive Vice President for Government Relations and Public Affairs at CropLife America. CropLife America is the national trade association for the chemical pesticide/crop protection industry.

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to be before you this morning to discuss efforts to reauthorize the pesticide industry's fee for service program, commonly referred to as PRIA. In addition to my CropLife responsibilities, I am also the co-chair of the PRIA coalition which was first formed in 2003. The original co-chairs were Jay Vroom, my CEO at CropLife America, and Phil Klein, Chemical Specialty Products Association, who is also with us today. I thank them both for their leadership over the years.

The PRIA coalition consists of a diverse and unique collection of interests that have come together once again to support our fee for service program, including the American Chemistry Council Biocides Panel, Biotechnology Industry Organization, Biopesticide Industry Alliance, Consumer Specialty Products Association, CropLife America, International Sanitary Supply Association, and Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment. This collective effort is also enjoined by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, Farmworker Justice and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

On behalf of the pesticide industry, I can attest to the benefit of working alongside the NGO community and in concert with our state and federal regulators to extend the process improvements achieved in EPA's regulatory program for registering pesticides, support stable funding for the EPA, and protect dedicated funds for necessary training and education programs.

As you well know, the current authorization for PRIA expires at the end of the current fiscal year and we welcome and appreciate the Congress' willingness to review this valuable program and provide your leadership to see that this program is reauthorized on or before September 30, 2017.

The reauthorization legislation currently before you would, among other provisions:

- Provide for the annual collection of \$31 million in product maintenance fees through 2023 (an increase of \$22.4 million over the seven years covered by PRIA 4)
- Cap the fees paid by small businesses
- Add Endangered Species Act reviews, risk reduction, and information technology system enhancements to the eligible uses of the funds collected
- Designate \$500,000 per year for the establishment of efficacy guidelines for products to address invertebrate pests of significant public health or economic consequence

- Designate \$500,000 per year for enhancements to the Good Laboratory Practices standards compliance monitoring program
- Continue funding of not less than \$1 million per year through 2023 to enhance scientific and technical activities relating to worker protection
- Continue funding of \$500,000 per year through 2023 for partnership grants
- Continue funding of \$500,000 per year through 2023 for pesticide safety education programs
- Extend the authority to collect registration service fees until 2023 and provides for two 5% increases in the fees paid in 2019 and 2021
- Continue the authority of the Administrator to waive fees for small businesses, under certain circumstances

Mr. Chairman, the legislation being considered today represents the efforts of all stakeholders at the intersection of pesticide regulatory policy and we respectfully ask for your support and the support of the Agriculture Committee to ensure the continuation of this important program.

Mr. Chairman, prior to the implementation of PRIA beginning in 2004, there was little, if any, business certainty for registration packages moving through the Agency. Product registrations would often linger at the Agency with no real process or timeframe for completion. This ambiguous process would often lead to frustration, and more importantly, jeopardized innovation as there was little incentive to invest in the research and development of new chemistries for the marketplace. The enactment of PRIA, in 2003, changed that experience and not just for product registrants, but also for all stakeholders to this process.

The success of PRIA has led to process improvements in the Office of Pesticide Programs at the EPA, established a dedicated funding stream for the Agency, created specific block grants for training and education programs and created business certainty that keeps the wheels of innovation turning.

Most importantly, though, PRIA has created certainty for the users of pesticide products. The PRIA fee framework ensures that pesticide products will be available to support American agriculture, make available the disinfectants used by facilities managers, provide the tools necessary to combat mosquito and other vector control in the public health sector, ensure the availability of structural pesticides for residential and commercial purposes, and home and garden and turf and ornamental industries as well as golf course managers. Consequently, those pesticide uses that most of us take for granted in our daily lives remain available and therefore, we are all beneficiaries of this necessary and important fee for service program that funds, in part, EPA's pesticide registration and review programs.

Mr. Chairman, the support enjoyed by this program reflects the commitment and sincere efforts of all stakeholders who work at the intersection of pesticide and public policy. Our primary underlying statute, FIFRA, allows for the simultaneous protection of human health and the environment and for a predictable registration process. The process improvements and business certainty created by PRIA are an invaluable piece of this regulatory puzzle.

Mr. Chairman, we welcome the opportunity to be with you today and we look forward to working closely with you and your staff as we ask for your support for seeing this important program reauthorized.