



Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director

October 31, 2023

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RE: Opposition to the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act (H.R. 4288)

Dear Senator Warren, Senator Markey and Representative Keating:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) seeks your assistance in opposing the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act (H.R. 4288), which would eliminate the ability of states and communities to strengthen protections for human health and the environment by prohibiting the adoption of restrictions on pesticide use that are more robust than existing federal regulations.

Founded in 1968, APCC is the leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization for the Cape Cod region, working for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect, preserve and restore Cape Cod's natural resources.

Although H.R. 4288 on its face appears to address consistency in labeling, this bill includes preemption language that would block any state or local community from adopting regulations on pesticide use that are more restrictive than federal regulations. Six states and over 200 communities across the U.S. already have pesticide regulations that are more stringent than federal regulations. Here in Massachusetts and elsewhere, actions are being considered that could create more regulatory requirements on the use of neonicotinoids, a pesticide that has devastated populations of critically important insect pollinator species. If signed into law, H.R. 4288 would nullify the existing state laws and regulations mentioned above and would bar Massachusetts and other states from ever considering stronger protections against harmful pesticides.

In part, H.R. 4288 would *"prohibit any State, instrumentality or political subdivision thereof, or a court from directly or indirectly imposing or continuing in effect any requirements for, or penalize or hold liable any entity for failing to comply with*

requirements with respect to, labeling or packaging that is in addition to or different” from what is regulated through the Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

As we have seen in efforts to curb air pollution or to reduce greenhouse gases, individual states such as California have successfully led the charge to adopt stricter labeling and emissions rules than the federal government. In doing so, they have inspired other states to follow suit and have influenced positive changes in industry standards that benefit every American. H.R. 4288 would deny states the opportunity to proactively take similar steps in protecting human health and the environment through more rigorous local standards for pesticide use.

APCC therefore respectfully asks that you support the continued ability of states to adopt pesticide regulations that are responsive to the welfare of their citizens. Please oppose H.R. 4288 and its proposed inclusion in the 2023 Farm Bill.

Thank you for your ongoing strong commitment to protecting our environment and public health. I would be happy to discuss this further with you or your staff if desired.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Gottlieb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Gottlieb
Executive Director