

Dec. 5, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi,

The undersigned organizations would like to express our strong support for the *Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011*, H.R. 1633. H.R. 1633 would bring some much needed certainty to agriculture and other rural businesses by exempting rural “nuisance dust” from EPA regulation if states and localities regulate it on their own. Our organizations request your support in keeping jobs in rural America by passing H.R. 1633.

As you are aware, farming and other resource-based industries are dusty professions. From tilling fields, to driving on dirt roads, to extracting resources, rural Americans deal with dust every day. Working in the soil is where they derive their livelihoods, and where the world derives much of its food and other essential resources. If EPA were to revise the dust standard now or in the future, states would be put in a position of having to impose regulatory restraints on rural operations, increasing the cost of production when that cost is already at historically high levels. And, for what purpose? Scientific studies have never shown rural dust to be a health concern at ambient levels.

While the undersigned organizations welcome EPA’s Oct. 14 announcement that the agency plans to propose to retain the current coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), the announcement does not provide the certainty that rural America needs. First, it is common for the agency to finalize a rule that is different from the proposed rule. In fact, in 1996 EPA proposed to remove the PM₁₀ 24-hour standard altogether, only to bring it back in the final rule. And in 2006, EPA proposed to exempt agriculture dust, but that exemption also disappeared in the final rule. Second, under the Clean Air Act, EPA must review this standard every five years. That means we could be facing the same challenges again in just five short years.

Thankfully, this Congress has the opportunity to ease this potential burden on rural America. H.R. 1633 would exempt rural “nuisance dust” from regulation under the Clean Air Act if states and localities regulate it on their own. In the event a state or locality does not regulate rural dust, the administrator could regulate it only if validated scientific analysis shows there is a significant health effect from such dust in a particular area and that the costs to the local economy associated with dust regulation would not outweigh any benefits.

H.R. 1633 is common sense legislation that the undersigned strongly support. We urge the Senate to pass this bill to help protect rural American jobs.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Indiana
Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agri-Mark, Inc.
Alabama Cattlemen’s Association
Alabama Pork Producers Association
All-Terrain Vehicle Association

American Farm Bureau Federation and their 51 state affiliates
American Feed Industry Association
American Highway Users Alliance
American Motorcyclist Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Veal Association
Americans for Limited Government
Americans for Prosperity
Americans for Tax Reform
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association
Arkansas Pork Producers Association
Arkansas Poultry Federation
Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association
Arizona Cattle Growers' Association
Arizona Cotton Growers Association
Arizona Pork Council
California Cattlemen's Association
California Pork Producers Association
CropLife America
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Corn Growers Association
Colorado Lamb Council
Colorado Livestock Association
Colorado Pork Producers Council
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee
Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority
Colorado Wool Growers Association
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
Dairy Farmers of America
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Dairy Producers of Utah
Dairylea Cooperative
South East Dairy Farmers Association
Stewards of the Sequoia
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association
Georgia Agribusiness Council
Georgia Cattlemen's Association
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Georgia Milk Producers
Georgia Pork Producers Association
Georgia Poultry Federation
Georgia Watermelon Association
Idaho Cattle Association
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Idaho Pork Producers Association
Idaho Potato Commission
Idaho Wool Growers Association
Illinois Beef Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas

Indiana Beef Cattle Association
Indiana Pork
Iowa Cattlemen's Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association
Kentucky Pork Producers Association
Let Freedom Ring
Livestock Marketing Association
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association
Louisiana Pork Producers Association
Maine Hog Growers Association
Michigan Cattlemen's Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Milk Producers Council
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association
Mississippi Pork Producers Association
Missouri Cattlemen's Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Pork Producers Association
Missouri Poultry Federation
Montana Pork Producers Council
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Montana Wool Growers Association
National All-Jersey
National Association of Manufacturers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Cotton Council
National Cotton Ginners Association
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Federation of Independent Business
National Grain and Feed Association
National Livestock Producers Association
National Meat Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Potato Council
National Renderers Association
National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Cattlemen's Association
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association
Nebraska Pork Producers Council, Inc.
New Hampshire Pork Producers Council
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau
New Mexico Federal Lands Council

New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.
New York Producers Cooperative, Inc.
North Carolina Agribusiness Council, Inc.
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Forestry Association
North Carolina Horse Council
North Carolina Peanut Growers Association
North Carolina Pork Council
North Carolina Poultry Federation
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, Inc.
North Carolina SweetPotato Commission
North Dakota Corn Growers Association
North Dakota Pork Producers Council
Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Cattlemen's Association
Ohio Pork Producers Council
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Oklahoma Poultry Federation
Oklahoma Pork Council
Oregon Pork Producers Association
PennAg Industries Association
Pennsylvania Pork Producers Strategic Investment Program
Public Lands Council
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association
Select Milk Producers
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
South Carolina Cattlemen's Association
South Carolina Pork Board
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Dairy Producers
South Dakota Grain & Feed Association
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South Dakota Soybean Association
South Dakota Stockgrowers Association
South Dakota Wheat Inc.
Southern Cotton Growers
Southern Crop Production Association
Southeast Milk Inc.
Southeastern Livestock Network
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association
Tennessee Pork Producers Association
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Texas Association of Dairymen
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Pork Producers Association

The Blue Ribbon Coalition
The Fertilizer Institute
Upstate Niagara Cooperative
USA Rice Federation
U.S. Beet Sugar Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Utah Cattlemen's Association
Utah Pork Producers Association
Utah Wool Growers Association
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Virginia Grain Producers Association
Virginia Pork Industry Association
Virginia Poultry Federation
Washington Cattle Feeders Association
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington Pork Producers
Western Business Roundtable
Western United Dairymen
West Virginia Cattlemen's Association
Wisconsin Dairy Business Association
Wisconsin Pork Producers
Wyoming Pork Producers
Wyoming Stock Growers Association