December 23, 2020

Office of Pesticide Programs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20460

Re: Comments on the Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision for metolachlor and s-metolachlor; Docket ID EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0779

To Whom it May Concern:

The Illinois Corn Growers Association (ICGA) is pleased to submit comments in support of the reregistration of mesotrione.

ICGA represents the interests of nearly 4,000 corn farmer members in Illinois. These members rely on ICGA to protect their right to use every available tool on their family farms to grow food, feed, and fuel for the world. Mesotrione is one of the most widely used herbicides in the U.S. and is a valuable tool Illinois farmers have been using to control broadleaf weeds.

Mesotrione is widely used as part of a resistance management program. It provides another mode of action and is a key component of many premix herbicides widely used for preemergence and postemergence control of weeds in corn. It is commonly used on waterhemp and Palmer amaranth, which are often resistant to other herbicides and can take over a corn crop in Illinois.

Illinois farmers must continue to have access to products that offer herbicide resistance alternatives.

Additionally, mesotrione is a very flexible product that can be used with multiple tillage systems. Farmers with access to herbicides that work well for no-tillage cropping systems will continue to use this very important conservation practice successfully, which benefits us all.

ICGA would encourage the EPA to renew the registration for mesotrione, a valuable herbicide option for Illinois corn farmers.

Sincerely,



Randy DeSutter

President

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