

**U.S. EPA Office of Pesticide Programs Funding Levels
and Pesticide Registration Hurdles**

What to Ask For When Visiting with Senate and House Members

Urge Representatives to support the Pesticide Registration Enhancement Act (H.R. 1029) and increase EPA/OPP funding levels. Reduce the 200 day delay and provide the pest management industry the necessary resources to enable the continued use of pesticides that protect public health.

Talking points

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for evaluating and registering pesticides in the U.S. pursuant to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Within the EPA, the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is tasked with implementing the process of pesticide registration and registration-review.
- The registration process involves examining the proposed pesticide ingredients, application site, frequency and timing of use, and storage and disposal. EPA then conducts extensive peer-reviewed human health and ecological risk assessments to confirm that the proposed use will not result in unreasonable adverse effects on humans, the environment, or non-target species. The extensive and lengthy process is expensive and requires the appropriate funding.
- EPA officials have indicated that the average approval time of a pesticide has increased by more than 200 days because of lower funding levels.
- Not only are new products required to be reviewed and registered by OPP, but all previously registered products are statutorily required by FIFRA to be reviewed every 15 years.
- Since 2003, a portion of the registration process conducted by OPP has been funded by continually reauthorizing the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA). PRIA put in place a fee schedule for pesticide manufacturers to create a more predictable and effective evaluation scheme for affected pesticide decisions, coupling the collection of individual fees with specific decision review periods. PRIA is set to expire in September 2017.
- In addition to PRIA, the remaining funding for OPP is annually approved by Congress through the appropriations process. Since sequestration in 2013 funding for OPP has significantly dropped from \$136 million to \$120 million, leading to a lack of resources and delays in pesticide registration.

The approval of new technology and protection of current products is essential for pesticide applicators who are relied upon by the public to control disease carrying pests. Furthermore, streamlining new product registration and registration review allows professionals the ability to continue providing the high level of service the American public is accustomed to without interruption. This ensures that hospitals, restaurants, food processing facilities and homes are protected from dangerous pests. Compounding the problem of existing inadequate funding levels, the White House recently released a top line budget proposal that would reduce the EPA budget by 25 percent (\$6.1 billion) and staffing by 12,400 workers. It is unclear exactly how much of OPP's funding is included in the 25 percent reduction, but any additional reductions in OPP funding levels will cause further delays in the pesticide registration process that are not sustainable for the pest management industry.