

February 3, 2025

Rick Keigwin
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Re: Petition Seeking Rulemaking To Modify Labeling Requirements for Pesticides and Devices; Docket No. EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0562; Request for Extension of Comment Period

Dear Mr. Keigwin,

The [Environmental Protection Network](https://www.epa.gov/environmental-protection-network) (EPN) harnesses the expertise of more than 650 former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) career staff and confirmation-level appointees from Democratic and Republican administrations to provide the unique perspective of former regulators and scientists with decades of historical knowledge and subject matter expertise.

On January 21, 2025, EPA published a Notice in the Federal Register announcing the opportunity for the public to comment on a petition filed by the State Attorneys General from eleven states (90 FR 7037). As explained in the Notice, the petition asks EPA to “modify its requirements such that any state labeling requirements inconsistent with EPA’s findings and conclusions from its human health risk assessment on human health effects, such as a pesticide’s likelihood to cause cancer, birth defects, or reproductive harm, constitute misbranding.” If adopted, the requested rule could limit states’ authority to regulate pesticides more stringently than the Federal Government - authority that states have been allowed to exercise for more than fifty years. EPN believes that such a momentous change should not be undertaken without very careful, deliberate consideration.

The Notice provided 30 days for the public to comment, until February 20, 2025. The Notice, which was signed on December 23, 2024, stated “a copy of the petition is available in the docket.” However, the petition was not added to the docket until January 28, 2025, shortening the effective commenting period.

The petition from the State Attorneys General is very lengthy – 436 pages. It raises novel legal issues, as well as important public policy questions. In light of the volume of material to review, as well as the significance of the requested action, the original 30-day comment period was unreasonably short. The fact that the petition on which the public was invited to comment was not posted until a week after the Notice published makes the current comment period even more insufficient.

Accordingly, EPN respectfully requests that the EPA extend the deadline for submitting comments by thirty additional days, to March 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Roos

Michelle Roos
Executive Director
Environmental Protection Network

cc: Charles Smith, Director, Registration Division
Edward Messina, Director, EPA Office of Pesticides Program
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