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# Congress of the United States
## House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3507

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES
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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RAILROAD, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES
CONSERVATION, ENERGY AND FORESTRY
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS, OVERSIGHT, AND NUTRITION

The Honorable Bob Perciasepe
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Perciasepe:

On Tuesday, April 9th, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that they mistakenly released private information of thousands of farmers to environmental groups. We are dismayed by the total lack of regard for the protection and safety of the famers, their families, and their property.

In 2011, the EPA proposed a rule that requires contained animal feeding operations (CAFO's) owners to provide the EPA with specific information on their operation, such as location, and their personal contact information. However, due to backlash regarding privacy concerns the EPA withdrew their rule in July of 2012 and decided to work with state agencies to obtain pertinent information. In October 2012, three environmental groups filed a freedom of information (FOIA) request to the EPA for all information gathered related to CAFO's.

In response to the request the EPA haphazardly released the information they had collected from over 30 states. Instead of ensuring that all the private information was redacted before releasing to the public, the EPA only redacted information from ten of the states. The information EPA released also included private information on farmers that were not designated CAFO's and therefore exempt from having to report any of their information.

Even more concerning is the information that the EPA released include the personal home addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of the farmers. This information goes beyond what public information is available on CAFO operations. Although the EPA requested the information back from the groups that they released, there is no way of knowing what was done with this information, or if it was stored for later use.

This incompetent, or deliberate, release has placed the CAFO's and their owners at the risk of possible vigilantes. We demand that you hold a full investigation into how such an error could have been made and hold those responsible fully accountable.

We demand a copy of your entire investigation into this matter as well as what you are going to do to protect the farmers who have done nothing wrong. The EPA has made an egregious error

in not following through on their due diligence and we demand to know what steps you are taking to ensure this never happens again.

We expect a full response on this issue no later than April 26th, 2013.

Sincerely,

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Robert Latta
Member of Congress

Scott DeJarlais
Member of Congress

Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress

Steve Daines
Member of Congress

Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Ted Yoho
Member of Congress

Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress