FRRCC
Agriculture Producing Solutions

Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee
Independent Federal Advisory Committee

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The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

As Chair of the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (Committee), I am pleased to transmit to you the attached report offering the Committee's recommendations regarding water quality issues as they relate to agricultural production. This report is the product of careful research and extensive deliberations conducted over the course of the past fifteen months. The report reflects a broad consensus among Committee members and overwhelming support for the implementation of the recommendations.

At the center of our recommendations is the sense that much is to be gained from deliberate and effective engagement with the agriculture community – farmers, scientists, grower organizations, and companies – on the key scientific, technical, and implementation efforts in which the Agency is involved. Doing so would increase the likelihood that constructive and credible solutions to water quality problems will be identified expeditiously, and that the strong partnerships necessary to undertake water quality improvements will be forged.

We appreciate having the opportunity to advise the Agency on matters of importance to agriculture and rural communities, and look forward to continued discussions with your staff to engage in follow-up actions on these recommendations in the months to come.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our advice.

Sincerely,

Steven S. Balling
Chair, Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee

cc: Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator
Lawrence Elworth, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator
Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water

Ken Kopocis, Senior Advisor, Office of Water
Michael Goo, Associate Administrator, Office of Policy
Cynthia Jones-Jackson, Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Management and Outreach
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