September 9, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

We are writing today as a coalition of interested agriculture groups in Alabama to encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue new registration for the dicamba products. Our producers will soon be making planting decisions for 2021. We ask EPA to issue a multiple year registration for the dicamba products Xtendimax®, Engenia and FeXapan that is simple, clear, and understandable.

Agriculture is Alabama's largest industry. Cotton and soybean production play a large role in that strength. Weeds reduce yields by competing with crop space, sunlight, nutrients, and moisture. Weeds also interfere with harvesting of cotton and reduce lint quality by increasing trash content and staining lint fibers. Effective weed management is a critical component of successful cotton and soybean production. We are unaware of any chemistry that has produced the results achieved using Dicamba. The added ability to spray dicamba over the top of cotton or soybeans provide producers with more flexibility in application and mode of action options for effective and sustainable control of weeds, including those that have developed resistance to glyphosate and other herbicides.

Applicator trainings in Alabama have been effective in managing this technology. The research and programs developed by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension System have been successful and kept drift complaints to a minimum. Our producers and applicators have not only made significant investments in dicamba tolerant crops but also in the safe and productive use of the product.

We understand the challenges the agency is facing due to the recent decision of the 9th Circuit Court to vacate dicamba registration. Our producers are in a difficult situation due to this decision. We urge you to issue new registration for dicamba products as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Alabama Agribusiness Council
Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries
Alabama Farmers Federation