Message

**From**: Carpenter, Wesley [Carpenter.Wesley@epa.gov]
**Sent**: 1/27/2021 4:46:25 PM
**To**: Newton, Cheryl [Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov]
**Subject**: ILFB request to meet with EPA transition team

Cheryl:

Good morning. I called to discuss the subject matter. Please give me a call at your convenience. Thanks.

Wes

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**From:** Perrin, Rebecca <Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov>
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:13 PM
**To:** Carpenter, Wesley <Carpenter.Wesley@epa.gov>
**Subject:** ILFB request to meet with EPA transition team

Wes,

Per R5 Ag Advisor, the Illinois Farm Bureau Federation would like to speak with the transition team or whomever at EPA would be most appropriate about the information below. As you are aware ordinarily these conversations would be had with the Ag Advisor's Office, but since there is not someone in that role currently, they are asking to speak with the transition team.

As requested, I am sending their request to you. We can certainly follow-up with them to narrow their ask of who they would like to speak with as the info below crosses three programs (OAR, OW and OPP).

Thanks.

Rebecca Perrin
Acting Special Assistant for Agriculture Policy | Designated Federal Officer for Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee
Office of the Administrator | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
DL: 303-312-6311

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**From:** Syed, Sharmin <Syed.Sharmin@epa.gov>
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021 12:24 PM
**To:** Perrin, Rebecca <Perrin.Rebecca@epa.gov>
**Subject:** FW: {External} Thank you for reaching out to the Biden-Harris EPA Agency Review Team

Here's the ILFB request!

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**From:** Lauren Lurkins <LLurkins@ilfb.org>
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2021 2:19 PM
**To:** Syed, Sharmin <Syed.Sharmin@epa.gov>
**Subject:** FW: {External} Thank you for reaching out to the Biden-Harris EPA Agency Review Team

FYI

**From:** Lauren Lurkins
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2021 2:18 PM
**To:** 'Eric Salcedo' <esalcedo@jbrpt.org>
**Subject:** RE: {External} Thank you for reaching out to the Biden-Harris EPA Agency Review Team

Mr. Salcedo,

On behalf of Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and our over 74,000 farmer members, thank you for the opportunity to share with you, the Biden-Harris EPA Agency Review Team, and Mr. Regan the following summary of our organizations perspectives:

- For the past several years, the IFB Board of Directors has set leadership on environmental issues as an organizational priority. We have a proven track record of proactive efforts on a variety of environmental issues important to Illinois farmers. An overarching view of our recent body of work is included in our 2020-2021 Environmental Report, which is located at http://www.ilfb.org/media/7801/ifb-2020-2021-environmental-report-web-copy-revised.pdf.
- Over the past two administrations, we have had the great benefit of participating in an ongoing and meaningful dialogue regarding issues including nutrient loss and water quality, livestock, pesticides and renewable fuels. We hope to be able to continue that dialogue with both EPA Headquarters and Region 5 USEPA staff.
- We strongly recommend selection of a capable and influential Agricultural Advisor for the Administrator. This position is critical as the Agency seeks to build and maintain relationships with farm communities across the country. We have also found it incredibly valuable to have an Agricultural Advisor in the Regional Administrator's Office at Region 5. Regular communication from EPA to the state Farm Bureaus, EPA farm visits, and farmer visits to Region 5's Chicago office are all important components of building awareness regarding challenges and opportunities for EPA and the agriculture community. We invite Mr. Regan and his staff to join us on Illinois farms.
- We believe it is important for EPA to continue to engage the agricultural community through its Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Advisory Committee. The issues included in the committee's current charge should be able to provide valuable insight for new EPA staff on water quality and quantity, pesticides, and food loss and waste. The committee could also serve as a great location for new EPA staff to introduce themselves to the agricultural community.
- With regard to water quality, we encourage EPA to continue its support of state-led Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategies. As you can see from our report at the link above, since 2015, we have committed over $2 million to implement our state's strategy through our grassroots organization. Important aspects of IFB's work involve watershed planning and implementation utilizing Section 319 funding, as well as partnerships with our drinking and wastewater utilities. We believe that working across a watershed and including both urban and rural stakeholders are the keys to improving water quality. It is upon those trusted working relationships that more advanced policy solutions like nutrient trading can be the most successful.
- With regard to livestock, we encourage EPA to consider supporting the livestock community through compliance assistance rather than a strict focus on enforcement.
- The agricultural community needs a commonsense approach in understanding the federal jurisdiction associated with waters of the United States. It is critical that we move toward implementation of the recent Navigable Waters Protection Rule so that the Army Corps of Engineers, USDA and EPA can all be communicating consistently. Farmers in Illinois have been caught up repeatedly in the web of confusion that comes with navigating simple projects on their farms. We look forward to productive conversations that allow for regulatory clarity for farmers and rural landowners.
- We encourage EPA to continue to improve the process for bringing pesticide products to market in an efficient way that allows for farmer certainty and protection of the environment. We do believe that the registration process, risk assessments and risk mitigation could be improved with an additional role for the farmer voice.
- We support the Renewable Fuels Standard and ensuring future demand for high octane, low carbon biofuels. We are committed to working with Mr. Regan and his team to reverse the damage inflicted upon the RFS by the previous administration.

- We encourage EPA to continue to bring farmer organizations to the table for discussions on the Biden-Harris Administration's priority issues including climate change and environmental justice, some aspects of which may be new for agricultural stakeholders.
- We encourage EPA to be a leader in working with other agencies to streamline the regulatory programs for the American farmer. As the Biden-Harris team sets forth on their exciting and ambitious climate agenda, this collaboration across agencies will be critical.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss anything in more detail, please do not hesitate to reach out. We would welcome the opportunity to provide you, the Review Team, Mr. Regan, and his staff an opportunity to speak directly with our farmer leaders and members. We very much look forward to working with you all over the coming years.

Thank you,
Lauren Lurkins
Director of Environmental Policy
Illinois Farm Bureau
1701 Towanda Avenue
Bloomington, Illinois 61704
(309) 530-0398

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**From:** Eric Salcedo <esalcedo@jbrpt.org>
**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 3:55 PM
**To:** Lauren Lurkins <LLurkins@ilfb.org>
**Subject:** {External} Thank you for reaching out to the Biden-Harris EPA Agency Review Team

Thank you for reaching out to the Biden-Harris EPA Agency Review Team. The Biden-Harris Transition team is committed to a government that engages stakeholders in a meaningful way. We know stakeholders provide key insights and recommendations on critical policy considerations, and access to networks of qualified, dedicated, diverse talent that will help make this new Administration look like America.

We are eager to hear from stakeholders across the country on a range of policy issues. Yet with limited time available to us, we are unable to fulfill your meeting request at this time.

We would, however, appreciate you sharing your organization's ideas, policy perspectives, and recommendations with our team through any written materials you have put together. Please feel free to send me anything your organization has prepared and we will include it as part of the package for the nominee and their team.

Again, thank you.

Eric

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Eric Salcedo
EPA Agency Review Team
Biden-Harris Transition Team

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