

Dec. 5, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi,

The undersigned organizations would like to express our strong support for the *Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011*, H.R. 1633. H.R. 1633 would bring some much needed certainty to agriculture and other rural businesses by exempting rural “nuisance dust” from EPA regulation if states and localities regulate it on their own. Our organizations request your support in keeping jobs in rural America by passing H.R. 1633.

As you are aware, farming and other resource-based industries are dusty professions. From tilling fields, to driving on dirt roads, to extracting resources, rural Americans deal with dust every day. Working in the soil is where they derive their livelihoods, and where the world derives much of its food and other essential resources. If EPA were to revise the dust standard now or in the future, states would be put in a position of having to impose regulatory restraints on rural operations, increasing the cost of production when that cost is already at historically high levels. And, for what purpose? Scientific studies have never shown rural dust to be a health concern at ambient levels.

While the undersigned organizations welcome EPA’s Oct. 14 announcement that the agency plans to propose to retain the current coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), the announcement does not provide the certainty that rural America needs. First, it is common for the agency to finalize a rule that is different from the proposed rule. In fact, in 1996 EPA proposed to remove the PM<sub>10</sub> 24-hour standard altogether, only to bring it back in the final rule. And in 2006, EPA proposed to exempt agriculture dust, but that exemption also disappeared in the final rule. Second, under the Clean Air Act, EPA must review this standard every five years. That means we could be facing the same challenges again in just five short years.

Thankfully, this Congress has the opportunity to ease this potential burden on rural America. H.R. 1633 would exempt rural “nuisance dust” from regulation under the Clean Air Act if states and localities regulate it on their own. In the event a state or locality does not regulate rural dust, the administrator could regulate it only if validated scientific analysis shows there is a significant health effect from such dust in a particular area and that the costs to the local economy associated with dust regulation would not outweigh any benefits.

H.R. 1633 is common sense legislation that the undersigned strongly support. We urge the Senate to pass this bill to help protect rural American jobs.

Sincerely,

Agribusiness Association of Indiana  
Agribusiness Association of Iowa  
Agricultural Council of Arkansas  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agri-Mark, Inc.  
Alabama Cattlemen’s Association  
Alabama Pork Producers Association  
All-Terrain Vehicle Association

American Farm Bureau Federation and their 51 state affiliates  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Highway Users Alliance  
American Motorcyclist Association  
American Seed Trade Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Veal Association  
Americans for Limited Government  
Americans for Prosperity  
Americans for Tax Reform  
Arkansas Cattlemen's Association  
Arkansas Pork Producers Association  
Arkansas Poultry Federation  
Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association  
Arizona Cattle Growers' Association  
Arizona Cotton Growers Association  
Arizona Pork Council  
California Cattlemen's Association  
California Pork Producers Association  
CropLife America  
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers  
Colorado Cattlemen's Association  
Colorado Corn Growers Association  
Colorado Lamb Council  
Colorado Livestock Association  
Colorado Pork Producers Council  
Colorado Potato Administrative Committee  
Colorado Sheep & Wool Authority  
Colorado Wool Growers Association  
Council for Citizens Against Government Waste  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
Dairylea Cooperative  
South East Dairy Farmers Association  
Stewards of the Sequoia  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association  
Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Georgia Cattlemen's Association  
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association  
Georgia Milk Producers  
Georgia Pork Producers Association  
Georgia Poultry Federation  
Georgia Watermelon Association  
Idaho Cattle Association  
Idaho Dairymen's Association  
Idaho Grain Producers Association  
Idaho Pork Producers Association  
Idaho Potato Commission  
Idaho Wool Growers Association  
Illinois Beef Association  
Illinois Pork Producers Association  
Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas

Indiana Beef Cattle Association  
Indiana Pork  
Iowa Cattlemen's Association  
Iowa Pork Producers Association  
Kansas Livestock Association  
Kansas Pork Association  
Kentucky Cattlemen's Association  
Kentucky Pork Producers Association  
Let Freedom Ring  
Livestock Marketing Association  
Louisiana Cattlemen's Association  
Louisiana Pork Producers Association  
Maine Hog Growers Association  
Michigan Cattlemen's Association  
Michigan Pork Producers Association  
Milk Producers Council  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association  
Mississippi Cattlemen's Association  
Mississippi Pork Producers Association  
Missouri Cattlemen's Association  
Missouri Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Pork Producers Association  
Missouri Poultry Federation  
Montana Pork Producers Council  
Montana Stockgrowers Association  
Montana Wool Growers Association  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Cotton Council  
National Cotton Ginners Association  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Federation of Independent Business  
National Grain and Feed Association  
National Livestock Producers Association  
National Meat Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Mining Association  
National Oilseed Processors Association  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Potato Council  
National Renderers Association  
National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association  
National Turkey Federation  
Nebraska Cattlemen's Association  
Nebraska Grain and Feed Association  
Nebraska Pork Producers Council, Inc.  
New Hampshire Pork Producers Council  
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association  
New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau  
New Mexico Federal Lands Council  
New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc.

New York Producers Cooperative, Inc.  
North Carolina Agribusiness Council, Inc.  
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association  
North Carolina Forestry Association  
North Carolina Horse Council  
North Carolina Peanut Growers Association  
North Carolina Pork Council  
North Carolina Poultry Federation  
North Carolina Soybean Producers Association, Inc.  
North Carolina SweetPotato Commission  
North Dakota Corn Growers Association  
North Dakota Pork Producers Council  
Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance  
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives  
North Dakota Stockmen's Association  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association  
Ohio Pork Producers Council  
Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association  
Oklahoma Poultry Federation  
Oklahoma Pork Council  
Oregon Pork Producers Association  
PennAg Industries Association  
Pennsylvania Pork Producers Strategic Investment Program  
Public Lands Council  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Rocky Mountain Agribusiness Association  
Select Milk Producers  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
South Carolina Cattlemen's Association  
South Carolina Pork Board  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives  
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association  
South Dakota Dairy Producers  
South Dakota Grain & Feed Association  
South Dakota Pork Producers Council  
South Dakota Soybean Association  
South Dakota Stockgrowers Association  
South Dakota Wheat Inc.  
Southern Cotton Growers  
Southern Crop Production Association  
Southeast Milk Inc.  
Southeastern Livestock Network  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America  
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery  
Tennessee Cattlemen's Association  
Tennessee Pork Producers Association  
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association  
Texas Association of Dairyemen  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
Texas Pork Producers Association  
The Blue Ribbon Coalition

The Fertilizer Institute  
Upstate Niagara Cooperative  
USA Rice Federation  
U.S. Beet Sugar Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Utah Cattlemen's Association  
Utah Pork Producers Association  
Utah Wool Growers Association  
Virginia Agribusiness Council  
Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
Virginia Grain Producers Association  
Virginia Pork Industry Association  
Virginia Poultry Federation  
Washington Cattle Feeders Association  
Washington Cattlemen's Association  
Washington Pork Producers  
Western Business Roundtable  
West Virginia Cattlemen's Association  
Wisconsin Dairy Business Association  
Wisconsin Pork Producers  
Wyoming Pork Producers  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association