They Seem To Get It, But...

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the Food Quality Protection Act. It is good to hear from you.

In 1996, Congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act as the successful conclusion to a 15 year effort to repeal the obsolete Delaney clause. Unfortunately, Environmental Protection Agency implementation has not followed normal administrative procedures and there has been little or no opportunity for industry to comment.

There have not been incentives and streamlined registration for new products. The prospects have led members of the House Agriculture Committee to share their concerns with the EPA. I have cosponsored H. Con. Res. 290, and have also written to Administrator Carol Browner



expressing my concern for adherence to congressional intent.

Vice President Gore has intervened and given the assurance that industry concerns will be addressed: that there will not be significant cancellations during this year and there will be enough time for implementation and a satisfactory transition to the new guidelines.

It is important that practical alternatives be developed before essential products are canceled, and industry representatives are able to respond effectively to pest management challenges. It is imperative that the decisions

forthcoming are based on reliable data.

Thank you again for your correspondence. If I can be of further assistance with this or any federal matter, please contact my office.

Joe Scarborough Member of Congress

The tone of the recent responses from Congress indicates they are aware of our concerns about EPA, but they are trusting that the agency is going to do the right thing. So far there is nothing to indicate that EPA has changed its overall approach and cancellation of products remains a real possibility. Please refer to the GCSAA Greens & Grassroots update in the Official Business section of this issue.

Editor

