

Sample Letter

Whether you mail or fax a letter or send an e-mail to your Congressperson, here are some important things to remember:

- Let them know who you are, where you're from, what you do and why FQPA is important to you.
- Tell them how long you've been in business and who your customers are. Explain how using a particular pesticide helps in your control program of a particular pest.
- Be specific, project professionalism and be honest.

Here's a sample letter that you can tailor to fit your needs:

Date

The Honorable (Congressperson's Name)
U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515 or 20510

Dear Representative or Senator (NAME):

I am a (golf course superintendent, lawn care operator, landscaper, etc.) from (town, state), where I (describe your business/job). However, I am very concerned that some of the pesticides I use to protect (golf courses, lawns, urban areas) may not be available in the future because of the Environmental Protection Agency's implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act.

While I support the goals of FQPA, I believe that the EPA should base its decisions about certain pesticides on sound science and real-life uses. So far, the EPA is working from theoretical data, worst-case scenarios and assumptions that could result in the unnecessary loss of safe pesticides. A clear, predictable and reliable regulatory process needs to be developed by the EPA for pesticide risk assessments.

Please co-sponsor and vote YES for the FQPA Regulatory Openness and Fairness Act of 1999, (SELECT ONE: H.R. 1592 in the House of Representatives or S.B. 1464 in the Senate).

My fear is that although the turf and ornamental industry accounts for a small number of uses for certain pesticides, manufacturers will be forced to eliminate these applications from the market in favor of uses in bigger markets. If this happens, I will be left without tools to do my job, even though these same products could have met the safety standard if EPA followed a reliable evaluation process.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Name
Address