

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1821

To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2021

Mr. GIBBS (for himself, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MAST, and Mr. FEENSTRA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Reducing Unnecessary
3 Regulations on Agricultural Lands Act” or the “RURAL
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. USE OF AUTHORIZED PESTICIDES.**

6 Section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide,
7 and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(f)) is amended by
8 adding at the end the following:

9 “(5) USE OF AUTHORIZED PESTICIDES.—Ex-
10 cept as provided in section 402(t) of the Federal
11 Water Pollution Control Act, the Administrator or a
12 State may not require a permit under such Act for
13 a discharge from a point source into navigable
14 waters of a pesticide authorized for sale, distribu-
15 tion, or use under this Act, or the residue of such
16 a pesticide, resulting from the application of such
17 pesticide.”.

18 **SEC. 3. DISCHARGES OF PESTICIDES.**

19 Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
20 Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following:

22 “(t) DISCHARGES OF PESTICIDES.—

23 “(1) NO PERMIT REQUIREMENT.—Except as
24 provided in paragraph (2), a permit shall not be re-
25 quired by the Administrator or a State under this
26 Act for a discharge from a point source into navi-

1 gable waters of a pesticide authorized for sale, dis-
2 tribution, or use under the Federal Insecticide, Fun-
3 gicide, and Rodenticide Act, or the residue of such
4 a pesticide, resulting from the application of such
5 pesticide.

6 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not
7 apply to the following discharges of a pesticide or
8 pesticide residue:

9 “(A) A discharge resulting from the appli-
10 cation of a pesticide in violation of a provision
11 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and
12 Rodenticide Act that is relevant to protecting
13 water quality, if—

14 “(i) the discharge would not have oc-
15 curred but for the violation; or

16 “(ii) the amount of pesticide or pes-
17 ticide residue in the discharge is greater
18 than would have occurred without the vio-
19 lation.

20 “(B) Stormwater discharges subject to reg-
21 ulation under subsection (p).

22 “(C) The following discharges subject to
23 regulation under this section:

24 “(i) Manufacturing or industrial efflu-
25 ent.

1 “(ii) Treatment works effluent.

2 “(iii) Discharges incidental to the nor-
3 mal operation of a vessel, including a dis-
4 charge resulting from ballasting operations
5 or vessel biofouling prevention.”.

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