




**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy* Cooperative 

Glenn English
Chief Executive Officer

March 30, 2011

The Honorable Bob Gibbs
329 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gibbs:

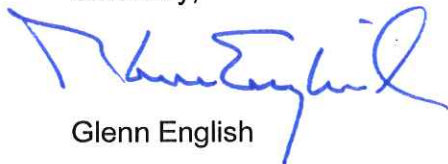
On behalf of America's electric cooperative utilities serving 42 million consumers in 47 states, I am writing in support of the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011 (H.R. 872).

Electric cooperatives actively maintain rights-of-way for our expansive distribution facilities helping to provide safe and reliable electricity to cooperative consumers throughout the nation. H.R. 872 is a common sense bill that will allow pesticide and herbicide applicators like electric cooperatives to avoid a duplicative regulatory requirement brought about the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit of Appeals in the National Cotton Council v. EPA decision. We agree with you that with this court decision, the Clean Water Act has been added as a new and redundant layer of federal regulation over the use of pesticides.

H.R. 872 recognizes that the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) should continue to be the appropriate statute governing the sale and use of pesticides in the United States. While we understand that on Monday, March 28, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit granted EPA's request for an additional six-month stay of a court order to require pesticide applicators to obtain Clean Water Act permits before they discharge pollutants into water bodies, we feel your legislation will provide the regulatory certainty that pesticide applicators need to continue business adhering to diligent compliance with FIFRA.

We urge quick adoption of this legislation, and we commend you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Glenn English