Date:

The Honorable NAME OF CONFEREE

Committee on Agriculture/Farm Bill Conferee

Washington, DC 20510

**RE: 2014 Farm Bill Conference Committee – Support of H.R. 2642 Public Health Language**

Dear Congress(man/woman) NAME:

On behalf of the (INSERT DISTRICT NAME) we are writing to remind you of an important issue to public health, environmental protection and agriculture within our district, the duplicative regulation of EPA approved pesticides to protect public health. The operations of our vector control agency was recently pulled into a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) when applying public health pesticides to Waters of the US. This requirement has constructed new obstacles for vector control agencies responding to public health threats by appropriately applying approved pesticides. As well, the NPDES permit shifts limited financial resources away from actual mosquito abatement to administrative and monitoring compliance.

INSERT DISTRICT NAME supports H.R. 2642, the House version of the Farm Bill, which contains a provision that is vital to our district’s public health mission. This provision (Section 9013) clarifies that no additional federal NPDES permits are required when pesticide/larvicide applicators are using those products in accordance with the federal mandates established by the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Pesticide Programs that are already specified on a product’s label.

The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee on a bipartisan basis, has already separately passed the language contained in Section 9013 via voice vote last year. Therefore, we respectfully urge all conferees to accept the House version of the language as both bodies recognize its beneficial intent.

With the recent upsurge of invasive species in California such as *Aedes aegypti* (yellow fever mosquito) and *Aedes albopictus* (Asian Tiger mosquito), vector control agencies need to utilize their financial resources to control and eradicate these exotic species before they become established rather than perform what we believe is redundant and unnecessary monitoring.

We respectfully request your support of H.R. 2642 the House version of the Farm bill which includes language removing the unnecessary burden on public health pesticide/larvicide applications.

Most sincerely,