

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2044

To prohibit the use, production, sale, importation, or exportation of any pesticide containing atrazine.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2013

Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, 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 prohibit the use, production, sale, importation, or exportation of any pesticide containing atrazine.

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

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Atrazine, a weed-killing pesticide, is the
6 most widely used herbicide in the United States. The
7 United States annually uses 65,000,000 to
8 80,000,000 pounds of atrazine.

1 (2) The toxicity of atrazine is well documented
2 and has shown to have adverse endocrine effects in
3 amphibians, mammals, and humans. There is evi-
4 dence that atrazine exposure is associated with small
5 birth weight, abnormal development of the gut wall
6 in infants, and spontaneous abortions. In laboratory
7 mammals, exposure is associated with abnormal re-
8 productive system development, impaired prostate
9 gland formation, and abnormal breast tissue devel-
10 opment. In aquatic wildlife, exposure is associated
11 with abnormal reproductive system development, im-
12 paired reproduction, and impaired immune system
13 function.

14 (3) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service
15 acknowledges that atrazine may have potential ad-
16 verse effects on fish, such as organ tissue disease,
17 disruption to the endocrine and olfactory systems,
18 and reduced reproductive function.

19 (4) The United States Geological Survey found
20 atrazine in approximately 85 percent of stream
21 waters and 40 percent of all ground water samples
22 from agricultural areas tested. The United States
23 Geological Survey has found that atrazine has the
24 highest frequency of detection of all pesticides in ag-
25 ricultural streams, and the highest frequency of de-

1 tection of all herbicides in urban streams. According
2 to data from the Environmental Protection Agency
3 Ecological Watershed Monitoring Program, the sur-
4 face water sampled in the Midwestern and Southern
5 United States suffers from pervasive atrazine con-
6 tamination. Sampling of watersheds between 2004
7 and 2006 showed that all 40 watersheds tested had
8 detectable levels of atrazine, and 25 watersheds had
9 average concentrations above 1 ppb. While these av-
10 erage elevated concentrations of atrazine are worri-
11 some, high peak concentrations may also be dan-
12 gerous. Nine watersheds had at least one sample
13 showing levels above 50 ppb, and four watersheds
14 had levels above 100 ppb.

15 (5) According to data from the Environmental
16 Protection Agency Atrazine Monitoring Program,
17 high levels of atrazine are also evident in drinking
18 water systems. More than 90 percent of the samples
19 taken in 139 water systems had measurable levels of
20 atrazine in both 2003 and 2004. Three systems had
21 annual averages exceeding 3 ppb.

22 (6) In 1991, Germany and Italy banned the use
23 of atrazine. In 2003, European regulators an-
24 nounced a ban on the pesticide throughout the Euro-
25 pean Union.

1 (7) The Department of Agriculture estimates
2 that a ban on atrazine would result in crop losses of
3 only 1.19 percent and decrease corn acreage by only
4 2.3 percent. Since banning atrazine nearly 20 years
5 ago, both Italy and Germany have not experienced
6 a reduction of corn productivity or total acreage of
7 land in production.

8 **SEC. 2. ATRAZINE PROHIBITION.**

9 Notwithstanding any other law, the use, production,
10 sale, importation, or exportation of atrazine or an atrazine
11 product is prohibited.

12 **SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT.**

13 Any person who violates section 2 shall be fined
14 under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not
15 more than 2 years, or both.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) ATRAZINE.—The term “atrazine” or “active
19 ingredient atrazine” refers to the pesticide chemical
20 2-chloro-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-1,3,5-tri-
21 azine.

22 (2) ATRAZINE PRODUCT.—The term “atrazine
23 product” means any pesticide containing the active
24 ingredient atrazine, as identified on the Environ-

- 1 mental Protection Agency registered label, either
- 2 alone or in a combination with other pesticides.

