



The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2026

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig,

On behalf of the 1.1 million Americans living with Parkinson's disease, we write in strong opposition to any provision that takes away the rights of states and localities to protect the health of their communities, including sections 10205, 10206 and 10207 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (HR 7567).

Parkinson's disease is the fastest-growing neurodegenerative disease with more than 90,000 new people diagnosed each year. The overwhelming majority of people living with Parkinson's disease have no known genetic link. However, growing scientific evidence has linked pesticide exposure to an increased risk of Parkinson's disease, including a strong link with the herbicide paraquat. More than 70 countries, including China, have banned paraquat.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) establishes a national floor for safeguards when using pesticides, explicitly allowing states and local governments that are more closely situated to the special needs of their communities to enact stronger protections. States can typically act faster than the federal government to restrict pesticides based on more recently identified evidence of health risks. For example, 27 states banned or restricted DDT—now widely understood to be harmful—before the EPA banned the pesticide nationally in 1972. Today, there is public urgency for policymakers to act on paraquat, with a recent national poll finding that 81 percent of registered voters support banning or curbing paraquat.

If the provisions included in sections 10205, 10206 and 10207 move forward, states will lose the right to decide how best to protect their residents — including actions to prevent exposures to neurotoxic pesticides like paraquat and to keep children safe, such as limiting pesticide spraying near schools and playgrounds.

Farmers and people who live in rural communities are more likely to be exposed to paraquat and thus are at a higher risk of developing Parkinson's disease. To protect the health of all Americans and retain FIFRA's respect for states' constitutional authority to go beyond minimum federal standards, we ask that you strike sections 10205, 10206 and 10207 from HR 7567. Everyone deserves protection from the health risks associated with the use of paraquat and other dangerous chemicals.

Sincerely,

Sharlene Bagga-Taves  
American Parkinson Disease  
Association

Danielle Mutone-Smith  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation  
for Parkinson's Research

Erin O'Quinn  
Parkinson's Foundation