



COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY
Lamar Smith, Chairman

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Statement of Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Mich.)

H.R. 5829, the *ADVISE Now Act*

Rep. Moolenaar: Back in February of 2014, the Agricultural Act of 2014, known as the Farm Bill, was signed into law. Section 12307 of that Act directed EPA to “establish a standing agriculture-related committee” to provide farmers with an opportunity to express concerns in the federal rule making process regarding regulations that would impact agriculture.

The *ADVISE Now Act* (H.R. 5829) complements this Committee's efforts to reform the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB). Earlier this Congress, Chairman Smith along with Members of this Committee, introduced the Science Advisory Board Reform Act of 2015 (H.R. 1029) which would modify the selection process for the SAB. It would also bring increased transparency, which is much needed for the SAB. The House passed this bill last March by a vote of 236-181.

This past June, I along with 33 of my colleagues (which included House Agriculture Committee Chairman Conaway, House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Peterson and House Agriculture Subcommittee Ranking Member Delbene) sent a letter to EPA Administrator McCarthy expressing frustration over the formation of this Agriculture-Related Committee within EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB). Despite having more than 2 years to work out the details, and despite the public comment period expiring in September of 2015, EPA has failed to establish this subcommittee. In fact, EPA has failed to keep Congress informed of its progress, despite numerous requests from Members. It appears that EPA is willfully delaying implementation, contrary to legislative intent.

The *ADVISE Now Act* would ensure farmers and the American people that their interests are heard within the rulemaking process at EPA.

I encourage my colleagues in joining myself and Chairman Smith to vote for passage of this bill.

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