

June 15, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Steven D. Aitken
Acting Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Room 262
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20503
Electronic Address: OMB_RAbulletin@omb.eop.gov

Dear Mr. Aitken:

We represent members of the agricultural community and are pleased to offer our support of OMB's proposed Risk Assessment Bulletin. The bulletin would establish government-wide standards to improve the technical quality and transparency of agency risk assessments, which in turn will lead to more informed decision making and better public policies.

Risk assessments are important analytic tools to estimate the likelihood and severity of environmental, health and safety risks and for informing decisions on how to manage those risks. Risk assessments can serve as a foundation for a wide range of decisions impacting agriculture, from environmental regulations to food safety standards and food import and export decisions. Wise risk management decisions and reliable risk communication depend on accurate, unbiased and transparent risk assessments. The goals at stake, and the consequences of government decisions, are too important to rely on low quality information and analysis.

The proposed bulletin reflects both good analytics and common sense. OMB's proposal would raise the quality, objectivity and transparency of these important analyses. More accurate and transparent information will improve the quality of important government decisions. It also will promote the public's right to know about important risk communications and risk management decisions by its government. This is laudatory, and we respectfully request that, after receiving input from the public and peer reviewers, the administration move forward and timely issue final risk assessment guidelines.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Oilseed Processors Association
United Egg Producers