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7-16-1993

Agriculture News Release - 1993-07-16c

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news release

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ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE HEARING SLATED

For immediate release, Friday, July 16, 1993

WASHINGTON -- Scientific questions raised by the recent report of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on environmental tobacco smoke will be the subject of a hearing before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Specialty Crops and Natural Resources, according to Subcommittee Chairman Charles Rose, D-N.C.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 1993, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room 1300 of the Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

Since EPA published the environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) report in January 1993, reaction has ranged from those, including some in Congress, who have advocated legislation to restrict smoking in workplaces, restaurants and elsewhere, to those who have questioned the report's scientific basis. Critics contend that EPA's conclusions about the health effects of ETS are unsound, that the agency manipulated the statistics, ignored relevant data that disagreed with its conclusions, and flouted its own guidelines. In the view of these critics, EPA has in this case, as it has in many others, sacrificed science to its own predetermined policy goals.

"These are serious charges, but I think that we are justified in approaching the EPA report with a considerable skepticism. We will hear from EPA officials responsible for the ETS report, and from the Chairman of the agency's Science Advisory Board committee that reviewed it in draft form. I want to see whether they can give common sense answers, in terms comprehensible to us and the general public, to the criticisms that have been made of their work," Chairman Rose said.

For additional information concerning the hearing, contact Subcommittee Staff Director Keith Pitts at 202-225-8906.

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