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news release

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Room 1301, Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

(NR93-068)

For further information:
Jim Davis, Press Secretary
(202) 225-2171
FAX (202) 225-3158

HEARING SLATED ON ADMINISTRATION'S PESTICIDE PROPOSAL

For immediate release, Thursday, Sept. 9, 1993

WASHINGTON -- Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-TX, Chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations and Nutrition, has invited officials from the three Federal agencies involved in pesticide policy -- the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) -- to appear before the Subcommittee on Sept. 22 to testify on the Administration's new pesticide policy proposal.

The hearing will be held Wednesday, Sept. 22, beginning at 10:00 a.m., in room 1300 of the Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

"This hearing will provide those agencies with responsibility for enforcing current pesticide statutes and regulations an opportunity to provide us with detailed information concerning the Administration's new initiative in this area. Based on their proposal and previous hearings, the Subcommittee will be better prepared to undertake efforts to adopt amendments to improve the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)," Stenholm said.

Through the authority provided under FIFRA, EPA regulates the registration of pesticide products to ensure that they meet stated health, safety and environmental criteria. Both USDA and FDA are involved in administering related aspects of pesticide policy.

The Subcommittee's Ranking Minority Member, Bob Smith, R-OR, added: "No one expects reauthorizing FIFRA to be simple and easy. As the Subcommittee prepares to tackle what will be a difficult debate, gathering the relevant evidence and information will be critical. It's important that the Administration give a full accounting of its views and be prepared to justify them. This is the nuts and bolts of legislating."

Only Administration officials will testify at this Subcommittee hearing. Persons wishing additional information concerning the hearing should contact Subcommittee Staff Director Stan Ray at 202-225-2171.

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