

REPRESENTATIVE CANDICE MILLER

Fighting Against Over-Regulation

EPA tries to regulate milk as oil

Farmers already face many examples of over-regulation by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but Representative Miller and local farmers believed that recent proposed regulations to protect against oil spills simply went too far. In fact, those proposed regulations would have treated milk in the same manner as oil and forced huge new costs on dairy farmers to create an unnecessary spill prevention plan.

Representative Miller introduced legislation that would require EPA to finalize the proposed rule, but to also exempt milk containers within 30 days, and would delay EPA fines or other compliance penalties. She also sent a letter along with 16 of her colleagues to the EPA Administrator requesting the agency move immediately to finalize the proposed rule that would permanently exempt certain milk containers and associated piping. Due to these efforts, the EPA **FINALIZED** the rule that would exempt classifying milk as oil.



Representative Miller and Wayne Wood, President of the Michigan Farm Bureau, discussing the challenges Michigan agriculture faces.

Overzealous EPA regulators are now trying to impose new regulations on dust

The EPA is in the process of promoting new regulations that would impose tough new restrictions on dust. Every farmer understands that dust is a fact of life in American agriculture and new dust rules will be another burden to be borne by farmers. Representative Miller is a cosponsor of H.R.1633, the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act of 2011, which would delay these regulations for one year so that a cost-benefit analysis could be completed.

Protecting farmers from conflicting and damaging regulation

Pesticides have for years been regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). This law governs the labeling, distribution, sales, and application standards of pesticides, including insecticides and herbicides. These are rules that American farmers know well and with which they comply. Now the EPA is attempting to enforce conflicting regulations on the use of pesticides by through the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Early this year the House of Representatives passed H.R.872, the Reducing Regulatory Burden Act of 2011, of which Representative Miller was a cosponsor. This legislation clarifies that farmers who use pesticides covered under FIFRA will not be obligated to file for additional permits. It eliminates duplicative jurisdiction and provide users with consistency and regulatory certainty. This common sense legislation will allow farmers to continue to comply with the FIFRA regulations. H.R.872 is now in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry where it is awaiting legislative action.