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September 7, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1101A Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I write today to encourage your continued collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to register various chemicals that have the potential to serve as insect repellents and sprays in the fight against Zika virus. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must evaluate all aspects of natural repellents and pesticides for safety and efficacy before they may be sold for public use to target mosquitoes and ticks.

One chemical which shows promise in the battle against the Zika virus is Nootkatone. The CDC lab located in Fort Collins, CO has conducted research on this chemical which has proven to be an effective repellent and insecticide against mosquitoes. This serves as an important breakthrough to stopping the spread of the Zika virus, according to CDC researchers. In addition to Nootkatone, labs across the United States are researching many new compounds which have shown tremendous promise for controlling *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, the primary vector of Zika virus.

As of August 25, the CDC has reported 624 pregnant women in the U.S. and 971 women in US territories have been infected with Zika virus. To date, there have been 17 babies born in the US with microcephaly, one of which unfortunately has died. New chemicals are essential for protection against the Zika virus and I ask that EPA process these registration requests as expeditiously as possible.

It is vital that our agencies work in coordination during this public health emergency to ensure public access to the most effective products on the market. I am grateful that your agency has been so cooperative during this difficult time and commend you for your time and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator