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Ford Overton
Vice Chairman
Little Rock

Ken Reeves
Harrison

Andrew Parker
Little Rock



Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Jeff Crow
Director

Joe Morgan
Little Rock

Bobby Martin
Rogers

Stan Jones
Walnut Ridge

Steven Beaupre, Ph.D., Ex-Officio
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville

July 12, 2017

Senator Ronald Caldwell, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture Forestry and Economic Development

Re: Kaput® Feral Hog Bait

Dear Senator Caldwell:

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission fully recognizes the detrimental ecological and economic impacts of feral swine to the State of Arkansas, and we fully support, in theory, the use of a toxicant to aid in the control and eradication of this invasive species. However, we do not believe that the Kaput® product, with an active ingredient of warfarin, meets the criteria of a suitable toxicant to address this issue. Warfarin works by altering the metabolism of vitamin K to prevent the activation of blood clotting factors resulting in death through blood loss. The presence of active clotting factors in the blood at the time of consumption means that there is a long delay from exposure to the time of effect and ultimately death. Many of our agency's concerns arise from the duration of this process.

Our first concern is the potential for direct exposure of wildlife species to the product resulting in mortality of public trust resources. In an effort to prevent this, the product label contains specific requirements for the use of this bait in stations with weighted lids. However, work by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and others demonstrates that weighted lids do not hinder access by American black bears and likely other wildlife species. Additionally, the complicated nature of the label instructions make the inappropriate use of this product by some individuals virtually inevitable, increasing the potential for wildlife exposure. Furthermore, sublethal effects, including reproductive failure, in wildlife with low dose exposure have not been investigated.

Our second concern is the indirect exposure of wildlife and domestic animals to warfarin through the scavenging of carcasses containing this toxin. Again, the label instructions recognize this concern by requiring individuals using Kaput® to search for and bury poisoned swine. However, the long duration to effect makes it unlikely that carcasses will be consistently removed from the landscape. Secondary toxicosis in birds of prey following the use of warfarin as a rodent poison have been previously documented. The long duration to effect of this product also hinders our agency's ability to monitor for, quantify, or respond to the adverse effects of warfarin exposure in our native wildlife.

The third concern we would like to present is one of public safety, both real and perceived. Feral swine are a common food source for many residents in the State of Arkansas. The Kaput product is laced with a blue dye intended to mark carcasses that have had warfarin exposure. However, this dye may not become apparent until 24 or more hours after an animal has consumed the toxin, allowing a window where human exposure is possible. Additionally, we are concerned that low-dose exposure of game species to this product could result in

2 Natural Resources Drive • Little Rock, AR 72205 • www.agfc.com
Phone (800) 364-4263 • (501) 223-6300 • Fax (501) 223-6448

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's mission is to conserve and enhance Arkansas's fish and wildlife and their habitats while promoting sustainable use, public understanding and support.

carcass marking without lethal effects leading to undesirable waste of harvested game and strong dissatisfaction in our hunting community.

The concerns we have presented today are shared by many in the wildlife management community. Letters have been sent to the EPA from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species requesting the suspension or cancellation of the federal registration for this product until further research and evaluation have been completed. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has requested that the Arkansas State Plant Board consider restricted licensure of this product in our state if it is to be licensed at all. Experience with invasive species teaches us that there are no magic bullets for these difficult situations, but the recent formation of the Arkansas Feral Swine Task Force is a positive step in this fight. The Game and Fish Commission looks forward to participating in that group and to the comprehensive recommendations this it will provide later this year.

Sincerely,

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July 12, 2017

Representative Dan Douglas, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture Forestry and Economic Development

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Jeff Crow
Director



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



April 18, 2017

**Agricultural &
Environmental
Sciences**
Suite 3000
(225) 925-3770
Fax: 925-3760

Sue Valentine, Regulatory Manager
Scimetrics Ltd. Corp.
PO Box 1045
Wellington, CO 80549

**Agro-Consumer
Services**
Suite 5000
(225) 922-1341
Fax: 923-4877

RE: Kaput® Feral Hog Bait (EPA Reg. No. 72500-26) Registration Cancellation

Dear Ms. Valentine:

**Animal Health
& Food Safety**
Suite 4000
(225) 925-3962
Fax: 925-4103

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) received a section 3 state pesticide registration application for Kaput® Feral Hog Bait (EPA Reg. No. 72500-26), and the section 3 label was registered in February 2017 with the following restrictions: the classification of the product as a state restricted use pesticide (RUP) and the requirements for a pesticide stewardship training for the person(s) selling, purchasing and applying the product. The state RUP classification and the pesticide stewardship training requirements were implemented through a Section 24(c) registration (SLN No. LA17-0006).

Forestry
Suite 6000
(225) 925-4500
Fax: 922-1356

**Management
& Finance**
Suite 1000
(225) 922-1255
Fax: 925-6012

The LDAF has a major concern regarding the registration of the Kaput Feral Hog Bait pertaining to the recommended "feeders" for use which may pose potential threats with the Louisiana black bear. Recently, the Louisiana black bear was delisted from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

**Soil & Water
Conservation**
Suite 7000
(225) 922-1269
Fax: 922-2577

As a result, the commissioner of the LDAF, Dr. Mike Strain, has elected to exercise his authority to cancel the state registration at this time for the Kaput Feral Hog Bait (EPA Reg. No. 72500-26) in Louisiana. Due to the cancellation of the state registration of the section 3 label in Louisiana, the section 24(c) (SLN No. LA17-0006) registration will no longer be needed, so the LDAF is requiring a cancellation of the Section 24(c) registration (SLN No. LA17-0006) at this time as well.



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY
MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



The fees for the state section 3 and section 24(c) registrations will be returned to Scimetrics Ltd. Corp.

If you have any questions or need additional information concerning this registration cancellation, please contact me.

Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
Suite 3000
(225) 925-3770
Fax: 925-3763

Agro-Consumer Services
Suite 5000
(225) 922-1341
Fax: 923-4877

Animal Health & Food Safety
Suite 4000
(225) 925-3962
Fax: 925-4103

Forestry
Suite 6000
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Management & Finance
Suite 1000
(225) 922-1255
Fax: 925-6012

Soil & Water Conservation
Suite 7000
(225) 922-1269
Fax: 922-2577

Sincerely,

Kevin Wofford, Director
Pesticide and Environmental Programs
Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Phone: 225-925-3763
E-mail: kwofford@ldaf.state.la.us

KW/sm



The voice of fish and wildlife agencies

1100 First Street, N.E., Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202-838-3474
Fax: 202-350-0869
Email: info@fishwildlife.org

May 5, 2017

Mr. Scott Pruitt, Administrator
U.S. EPA Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: Notice of Pesticide Registration (EPA Reg. No. 72500-26) for Kaput® Feral Hog Bait

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

Founded in 1902, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (Association) represents North America's fish and wildlife agencies and serves to advance science-based management and conservation of species and their habitats for the public's long-term benefit and use. The Association has recently become aware of the registration of Kaput® Feral Hog Bait, and it has been brought to our attention that several states have expressed concerns about the environmental and public safety of this pesticide product.

We understand this regulatory decision was made under the previous Administration. However, given the above concerns, the Association requests the Environmental Protection Agency suspend or cancel the registration until such time that formal consultation can be completed with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration. Also it would be helpful, as we work with you on this issue further, to review information that was utilized by EPA to evaluate Kaput® Feral Hog Bait relative to efficacy, non target impacts, and potential impacts to human health. In this regard, please provide a copy of any study or report or other information and associated evaluation conclusions used during the registration process.

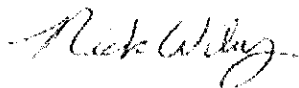
The damage and disease impacts from feral hogs are well known and their control is a priority for many state fish and wildlife agencies. However, there are serious concerns regarding the environmental effects from the use of Kaput® Feral Hog Bait on the landscape as a means of eliminating feral hogs. The potential impacts include short- and long-term effects on non-target wildlife species either through consumption of the bait, or through consumption of carcasses that have been poisoned by the bait. These risks include the primary intoxication of small mammals and non-target game animals as well as secondary intoxication of raptors, including bald eagles and other species. In addition to direct mortality, questions remain about the impacts on fetal development in non-target species that receive sub-lethal doses.

Of specific concern are potential detrimental impacts to black bears, including the Louisiana black bear, which was removed from the Federal list of Endangered Species in the spring of 2016. Kaput® Feral Hog Bait, used according to label instructions to kill hogs, is likely to result in death or sub-lethal impacts to non-target black bear. Use of this product has the potential to create a new and increasing threat that could undermine the recovery of the Louisiana black bear and the management of other species, causing significant concern to state fish and wildlife agencies. We also have concerns that there could be impacts to some of the species identified in State Wildlife Action Plans as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation.

As mentioned above, there are concerns about the use of Kaput® Feral Hog Bait and the potential adverse impacts to wildlife resources. The registration of this product raises questions about the process used by the previous Administration, to approve the use of Kaput®. We are hopeful this issue could provide opportunity to review and improve this process. For example, it isn't clear if the registration process included sufficient consultation with the USFWS for potential impacts of the bait to federal trust wildlife species or if there was sufficient consultation with the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services. In fact, USDA is currently working with the states on developing potential toxicants for feral hogs that are both efficient and have minimal impacts to non-target wildlife. Finally, we believe there needs to be further consideration regarding potential effects on human health associated with using this product for feral hogs. There are concerns that the pesticide may have health impacts to people, as it is labeled for use for animals that enter the food chain when harvested and consumed.

We appreciate your consideration of these concerns and respectfully request the opportunity to work with you and your team to reconsider registration of this product. I would be glad to discuss this issue further with you or your staff, so please don't hesitate to contact me at (850) 251-2162 if you have questions. We look forward your response on this important matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Nick Wiley, President
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Cc: Venus Eagle, Acting Chief, USEPA, Invertebrate-Vertebrate Branch 3, Registration
Division of Office of Pesticide Programs
Jim Kurth, Acting Director, USFWS
Kevin Shea, Administrator, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services
Stephen Ostroff, M.D., Deputy Commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine, Food
and Drug Administration

National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species

Center for Invasive Species Prevention ♦ National Wildlife Federation ♦ The Wildlife Society ♦

American Bird Conservancy

www.necis.net

2 June 2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt
USEPA William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

The above-listed member organizations of the National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species (NECIS) are writing to you today to urge the EPA to **immediately suspend or cancel the registration of Kaput® Feral Hog Bait**.

As NECIS member organizations, we are focused on promoting scientifically sound policies that prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in the United States. Our organizations recognize that feral hogs are a nuisance invasive species throughout much of the US and require collaborative and aggressive approaches to management. However, the fast-tracked registration of Kaput® Feral Hog Bait by the previous Administration has resulted in continued concern being raised over whether the impacts of this pesticide to non-target wildlife and public health were properly evaluated.

As stated in a May 5 letter sent to the EPA by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, native wildlife can be exposed to Kaput® via multiple pathways and can result in lethal or sub-lethal impacts. The required use of 8-10 pound feeder lids as stated on EPA-approved label instructions will likely not deter non-target carnivores such as black bears from directly consuming bait. The label instructions also require spilled bait around feeders be removed from the area only every one to four days, placing a broad array of wildlife populations at risk for exposure.

Label instructions additionally state that all effectively targeted feral hogs need to be properly disposed of after death. However, it can take up to two weeks for death to occur in feral hogs after bait consumption, allowing for a wide dispersal of deceased poisoned hogs. Scavenging wildlife could then consume lethal or sub-lethal doses of Kaput® from carcasses that are not detected or properly disposed of by Kaput® users.

This wildlife issue can quickly transform into a human health concern if game species that consume sub-lethal doses are then harvested by hunters. It can also be a problem in feral hog populations that are utilized as a human meat source. According to the Kaput® Products website, the dye within the bait that turns feral hog fatty tissue blue does not take effect until 24 hours after consumption. This provides a window in which a hunter may harvest a poisoned hog prior to the hog's tissues being stained.

The potential wildlife and human health impacts of Kaput® Feral Hog Bait stress the need to gather more information in order to properly reevaluate this pesticide. We echo the request of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to "suspend or cancel the registration of this product until such a time that formal consultation can be completed with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration."

Thank you for your consideration of the above request. The undersigned NECIS member organizations stand ready to work with you to address the critical challenges associated with invasive species management.

Sincerely,

Center for Invasive Species Prevention
Peter T. Jenkins, President
301-500-4383, jenkinsbiopolicy@gmail.com

National Wildlife Federation
Bruce A. Stein, PhD, Associate Vice President, Conservation Science & Climate Adaptation
202-797-6602, steinb@nwf.org

The Wildlife Society
Bruce Thompson, PhD, CWB®, President
301-897-9770, cmurphy@wildlife.org

American Bird Conservancy
Grant Sizemore, Director of Invasive Species Programs
202-888-7480, gsizemore@abcbirds.org

CC: Rick Keigwin, Jr., Acting Director, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs
Venus Eagle, Acting Chief, Invertebrate-Vertebrate Branch 3, Registration Division of EPA
Office of Pesticide Programs
Jim Kurth, Acting Director, USFWS
Kevin Shea, Administrator, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
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Drug Administration