



HPTA's Advocacy for Nutritional Chemicals Definition

The HPTA Board is pleased to provide an update on our ongoing efforts to advocate for the humic product industry. As your representatives, we are committed to addressing critical issues that impact our industry and our valued members.

One such issue that we have been diligently working on is the missing definition of nutritional chemicals under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). This long-overdue definition has significant implications for our farmers and suppliers, and it is vital to clarify this matter.

In the current landscape of pesticide law, there are primarily two categories: fertilizers and soil amendments, which are regulated by individual states, and pesticides, overseen by the Federal government through FIFRA. Surprisingly, the definition of nutritional chemicals introduced to FIFRA in 1954 has remained conspicuously absent for over seven decades. This regulatory gap has led to uncertainties surrounding regulating and labeling nutritional chemicals, ultimately hindering our farmers' access to these valuable resources.

In our pursuit of clarity and support for our members, HPTA petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), requesting them to define nutritional chemicals. This petition represents a crucial step toward providing our industry with clear guidelines and ensuring the consistent labeling of these essential agricultural products.

Our petition is in response to recent developments in our collective industry efforts. The biostimulant industry members have worked tirelessly to attach the Plant Biostimulant Act of 2023 to the Farm Bill. Unfortunately, this effort has faced delays due to congressional budget debates, missing House Speakers, and the extension of the Farm Bill. Because the Farm Bill was extended unchanged, this extension postpones the incorporation of additional acts like the Plant Biostimulant Act of 2023 and the Innovative FEED Act. The

Plant Biostimulant Act contains two components: defining nutritional chemicals (already present in FIFRA) and introducing new biostimulant definitions and language to FIFRA.

Some members of Congress remain hesitant to open up and revise FIFRA, leading HPTA to advocate for addressing the existing portions related to nutritional chemicals already in FIFRA. This strategic approach allows us to make progress while preserving the current effort of the Plant Biostimulant Act of 2023. Our request to the EPA to define nutritional chemicals does not alter the Plant Biostimulant Act but is a strategic move to increase attention on this critical issue.

Rest assured that HPTA remains steadfast in serving your interests and advancing our shared mission. We are dedicated to making meaningful strides toward regulatory clarity and ensuring that humic and fulvic acids are labeled and sold easily in all states.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support of HPTA. Together, we can drive positive change and create a more favorable environment for sustainable agriculture practices.

Best regards,

HPTA Board

The ***Humic Products Trade Association*** (HPTA) is a not-for-profit membership organization that was founded in 2010 with the purpose of advancing the commercial uses of humic products through scientific and regulatory cooperation. Information regarding the ***Humic Products Trade Association***, including Membership can be found at [HumicTrade.org](https://www.HumicTrade.org). Join us and help shape an industry.

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