

February 23, 2016

Ms. Kelly Ballard, Re-Evaluation Division (7508P)
Office of Pesticide Programs
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW,
Washington, DC 20460-0001

Regarding Registration Review of Dimethoate

DOCKET ID: **EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0059**

Dear Ms. Ballard,

The Georgia Cotton Commission (GCC) is a producer funded organization representing the cotton producers of Georgia. Georgia is the second largest cotton growing state with a \$960 million farm gate value and a total economic contribution of \$2.6 billion to the economy of Georgia. The Georgia cotton industry also accounts for over 20,000 jobs in our state. Agriculture is the largest industry in Georgia accounting for over 411,000 jobs and has a total economic impact of over \$74 billion to Georgia's economy.

Dimethoate is a valuable tool Georgia cotton growers use in managing thrips. Growers in Georgia use integrated pest management (IPM) on our farms. GCC has funded many research projects with the University of Georgia in which we have developed a sustainable IPM program to combat pest in cotton. Dimethoate is a vital part of that IPM program as it is one of many tools used to manage thrips populations. Our IPM program depends on having the choice of multiple products and chemistries to use as needed.

In conclusion, GCC believes dimethoate is a valuable tool for our cotton farmers in Georgia. We urge the EPA to retain the current labeled uses for dimethoate in cotton.

Sincerely,



Mike Lucas
Chairman
Georgia Cotton Commission