

Rep. Anna G. Eshoo Testimony
Rules Committee Hearing on H.R. 1633
H.R. 1633 *Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act*
December 6, 2011

H.R. 1633, the *Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act* is another step by the Majority to roll back clean air and water laws. And this bill deals with both injury and insult.

The injury: Republicans convinced farmers that the EPA was going to regulate farm dust (or nuisance dust), a made-up term, not based on scientific or medical evidence. The EPA has no plans to regulate farm dust. In fact, in October, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson confirmed that she does not plan to change current law regarding coarse particle emissions. This bill is completely unnecessary.

The insult: This bill exempts particle emissions from a wide array of sources including mining operations, cement plants, gravel pits and coal processing plants. These sources emit arsenic, lead, and mercury among other harmful pollutants and these pollutants can cause serious health problems including decreased lung function, asthma attacks, respiratory diseases, and worse.

The Energy and Commerce Committee recently received a letter from a team of physicians and researchers at John Hopkins School of Public Health. The experts wrote that this legislation, *“does not account for current or future knowledge of health risks posed by rural particulate matter exposure, and rather enacts a permanent exemption of rural particulate matter from Clean Air Act regulation. This approach is not supported by the scientific evidence or good professional judgment, and is not scientifically defensible.”*

This bill ignores science, creates harm, and insults farmers.

My amendment is straightforward: If the EPA Administrator and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee find that the exemption in this bill would increase the incidence of asthma attacks, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, or premature mortality, then the bill's exemption from the Clean Air Act for particulate pollution has no effect.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.