

## Talking Points for Responding to USDA Blog Post

- Farm Dust, in fact, is regulated across our great nation. While that regulation might not be a direct regulation handed straight from EPA to farmers, the agency forces states to regulate industries that cause dust in order to get areas into compliance with the standard EPA sets.
- Mandatory Best Management Practices in the arid US cost farmers and ranchers thousands of dollars each year ([AZ BMPs](#)). These mandatory BMPs are the result of EPA's current coarse particulate matter standard (PM10). That's right, there already is a dust standard in place and for producers like me, they already cost me time and money.
- Farmers and Ranchers want to know that EPA will never regulate farm dust ever, and will never *cause* the regulation of farm dust. H.R. 1633 gives us that certainty.
- When planning the next 10 to 20 years of my operation or when trying to pass my business to my children, it is threats and regulations like those from EPA and USDA that prevent me from doing so.
- EPA's threat is very real, because just months ago EPA staff and one of EPA's scientific advisory boards suggested to Ms. Jackson that she lower the standard to double its current stringency.
- Following these recommendations would have meant that I could have been guilty of violating the Clean Air Act every time I drove my pickup down a dirt or gravel road, while I plant or harvest my crops, or if my cattle are moving around too much. Look, I'm glad she decided against lowering it, but that doesn't solve the underlying problem, the EPA shouldn't even be threatening to.
- In the final 2006 rule setting the dust standard (PM10), the preamble stated that while the final rule did not contain the exemption for dust from agriculture that had been in the proposed rule, states should focus on urban dust because the evidence against dust in rural areas is so weak.
- If the evidence is scant, and the agency truly does not want to regulate farm dust, then why not support the bill that allows us out here in the country to sleep a little easier at night? And why aren't you at the USDA an advocate for us? It sounds to me like you are now an advocate for EPA. Very disappointing.