



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU  
Governor

August 22, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Acting Administrator  
U.S. Department of Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler,

As you know, tick-borne diseases are on the rise across the country. According to the Center for Disease Control, Lyme disease is now prominent in 46 states. The northeastern states, from Maine through Maryland, have the greatest concentration of ticks in the nation. And of course with ticks, comes the challenge of Lyme disease.

Recent statistics out of the CDC have shown a dramatic three-fold rise in tick- and mosquito-borne diseases, which therefore makes tick management an important consideration for municipalities, schools, parks and state governments.

In New Hampshire it is almost impossible now to find anybody who doesn't have a loved one, friend, or acquaintance with Lyme disease. It is heartbreaking to see the effects of this often times debilitating disease. In fact, a recent study highlighted in US Today found that over 1,200 suicides each year—and more 31,000 suicide attempts—are attributed to Lyme disease. The black-legged tick that carries the bacterium that causes this and its related diseases is also ravaging our cats and dogs, as well as the state's iconic moose population. This isn't just a human and animal tragedy, it's also a major economic problem to states like mine that depend upon the tourists who venture here from around the world for the unique outdoor activities that we have to offer. Similarly, the rising fear of tick-borne illness serves as a detriment to families getting outside and being active.

Given the acceleration of tick- and mosquito-borne diseases in the United States, and the crippling human, animal, and economic impact that these diseases cause, I implore the EPA to accelerate the review and registration of new tick and mosquito protection products with the potential to help states like mine better protect itself.

For example, there is a product called nootkatone currently under review by the EPA that experts, including those at the CDC, claim have a number of advantages over existing products. I am told that if the EPA completes its registration of nootkatone in the August-

September timeframe this product could be introduced commercially to state's public health departments and to the American public in time to provide benefit during next year's tick and mosquito season. I am also told that it is not unreasonable to expect the EPA to complete its registration of nootkatone in that timeframe.

I am asking the EPA to please act now and accelerate the review of nootkatone and any other products capable of helping us to reduce this dangerous onslaught of tick- and mosquito-borne diseases that are crippling our communities and our economies.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important issue and we look forward to the agency taking action. Please contact D.J. Bettencourt, in my office at 603-271-8786 if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor