



April 6, 2021

Chairman Sundin  
*House Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy*  
100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN

**RE: HF 1524, Agriculture Appropriations**

Chair Sundin, Members of the House Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy:

RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is very concerned about Article 2, Section 8 in this legislation. This section calls for an increase in non-agriculture pesticide fees by 80% from previous years. While we remain supportive of the work done by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, we must oppose such a dramatic increase in fees.

To register a nonagricultural pesticide in the State of Minnesota registrants are already required to pay a registration fee of \$350. In addition to this fee, if the registrant's annual gross sales of the nonagricultural pesticide exceeded \$70,000 in the previous calendar year, the registrant pays a fee equal to .5 percent of the annual gross sales over \$70,000. These two fees generate significant revenue for the State.

The language of concern in Article 2, Section 8 changes the existing .5 percent fee to .9 percent. Our industry firmly opposes such a drastic increase to the amount of fees collected.

It is our understanding that this fee increase has been proposed to support funding for urban pesticide education and outreach. We believe this increase goes beyond the acceptable scope these monies. It is our position that fees collected by the State should be reserved for basic registration and enforcement programs.

This legislation is poorly timed, as it calls for such a large increase when residents of Minnesota are still financially struggling with the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This fee increase would be passed onto the citizens of Minnesota as a hidden form of taxation, and result in fewer products available to protect their health, homes, landscapes, forests, and roadsides.

At this time, our industry cannot support such a significant increase to the current fee structure. We respectfully request that the committee not enact the changes in Article 2, Section 8.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Gaeta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jon Gaeta  
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RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment) is the national trade association representing manufacturers, formulators, distributors and other industry leaders engaged with specialty pesticides.