

HF 1524

Chair Sundin and Committee members:

I am here to ask for your support for 4 bills that will make MN healthier for humans and wildlife on land and in our waters by creating safeguards in the use of pesticides.

HF 766 Additional seed label information required, certain seed uses prohibited and product stewardship required for corn and soybean seed coated or treated with neonicotinoids.

This bill came about due to the disaster at the AltEn plant in Mead NE where excess treated corn seeds were taken to the plant for processing into ethanol. The waste products created in the process produced thousands of pounds of fermented mash that were distributed to farms as “soil conditioners”, with the rest piled up the ground around the plant - further testing revealed leaching into surface waters. The terrestrial and aquatic contamination covered a large area, including and destroying 36 bee hives within a mile of the plant and causing health problems in residents and their animals. Testing revealed neonic levels “many times higher than what is considered safe”. We need protection from this type of contamination by requiring better stewardship of pesticide coated seeds, including a caution statement on the seed bag label

HF670 asks for a state ban on the sale, use and application of the highly toxic pesticide, chlorpyrifos, product recall, and collection efforts required

This organophosphate pesticide is known for its damaging neurological effects, and is especially risky for developing brains of young children. MN labelled this as a “chemical of concern” because of the contamination of drinking water and in small sensitive watersheds. EPA revised the human risk assessment in Sept 2020, and reported a single application of chlorpyrifos poses significant risks to water, human, and animal health. Previously a MN resident testified before this committee as to the damaging effects to her child’s health and development after their home was impacted by the drift from a single application over a nearby ag field. Prohibited for indoor use in 2001, the EPA was in the process of taking it off the market in 2015, but the previous administration reversed the process

HF 408: pollinator lethal insecticide fee increase of 0.1% allocated to pollinator research at the UMN

Research will concentrate on pesticide, parasite, and climate disruption impacts on pollinators, as well as the threats to humans and pets from pesticide collars containing the neonicotinoids clothianidin and imidacloprid causing the death of 1700 dogs.

HF 1450: dicamba herbicide gross sales fee increased by 0.1% to create dicamba compensation program at the MDA for damages caused by dicamba drift.

Dicamba readily volatilizes and drifts to adjacent properties damaging crops and habitat installations and farmers across the US have reported thousands of drift episodes affecting soybeans, and other vegetables, fruit trees, gardens, and residential trees. June 2020 a federal court ruled dicamba as unlawful because the EPA failed to recognize the risk of unprecedented drift damage, but even so 25 million pounds were allocated last summer.

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