



To: Members of the Conference Committee on SF 4062

From: Dan Papineau, Director of Government Affairs

Date: 5/9/2022

Subject: Please Oppose Article 2, Section 2&3 in HF 4492 (SF 4062)

On behalf of our 62,000 customers serviced by almost 300 employees in Minnesota, we respectfully ask that you oppose provisions in the House Omnibus Environment bill allowing local regulation and bans of pesticides. (*HF version of SF 4062 Article 2 Section 2&3*)

Since 1987, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has had sole substantive authority over the proper application and use of pesticides. Minnesota is one of 43 states that has a statutory preemption on local regulation of pesticides. The professionals at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture regulate and control the use of pesticides and enforce violations of state statute. All of TruGreen's pesticide applicators are certified and licensed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Professionals who misuse pesticides can be fined, lose their license, and face disciplinary action. Significant State and Federal oversight ensure industry compliance and the proper use of products according to the label and the law.

The cited provisions in the House bill would turn Minnesota's rational and informed pesticide regulation by the USEPA and the MDA on its head! This provision would allow 853 Minnesota cities to regulate and ban pesticides without any uniformity. Adding another layer of regulation by cities who lack the necessary expertise and scientific training would be moving responsible regulation several steps backward. While local control makes sense in many areas, the highly technical field of pesticide and chemical use is clearly not one of them.

We are aware of no data suggesting there is a human health threat in Minnesota from the proper application and use of pesticides. In fact, properly applied pesticides are effective in preventing threats to human health coming from mosquitos and ticks as well as preventing environmental damage from turf-destroying grub worms and tree/shrub destroying beetles, the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive pests in the lawn and around the home.

Additionally, when applied responsibly, per the instructions on the label (which have the force of law) the EPA has found the use of pesticides not to be harmful to beneficial insects. As professional applicators who are trained, pass state exams, and undergo continuing education, we understand the importance of proper and responsible use of these products.

Please allow the Department of Agriculture the ability to continue the responsible Federal and State regulation of pesticides. As the Conference Committee deliberates on SF 4062, we urge you to reject the provisions of House Article 2, Section 2&3.

Thank you,

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