

March 9, 2023

RE: HF1130 - legislation allowing for local control of pesticide regulation

Dear Representatives of the Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee,

We are writing to you regarding HF1130 - Legislation that would allow the local control of pesticide regulation. We currently own a lawn care company servicing the Twin Cities. Our company focuses on reduced environmental risk lawn care. Prior to owning the company we worked in the Turf and Ornamental Industry. We both hold a Bachelors of Science in Horticultural Science and a Masters Degree in Applied Plant Science. As small business owners impacted by this legislation, people who have spent their career caring for plants and the environment, and people with a scientific understanding, we feel we are well positioned to speak to this legislation.

We ask that you oppose this legislation for the following reasons.

Current laws place the control of pesticide regulation at the federal and state levels. Regulators at these levels consider the human health impacts and environmental risks, among other factors to evaluate pesticides. These entities are staffed by experts who are trained to evaluate pesticides. We are concerned that cities will not have the capabilities to evaluate pesticides appropriately and thus may make ill-formed decisions that do not consider all factors. It is our stance that we do not need to put additional layers in place to control pesticides, but rather we should work with the existing entities to put the proper evaluation and controls in place.

Through our industry network, we have connected with professionals in markets where cities are allowed to create pesticide regulations. The information they share about these regulations concerns us. Homeowners travel to neighboring towns to acquire the banned pesticides they wish to use. Bad industry actors do not follow the local regulations. Banned products are accidentally used by good industry actors. These occurrences result in local pesticide regulations not being followed and continued use of potentially harmful pesticides. We believe that regulation at the state level would be more effective at reducing the use of problem pesticides, because access to these pesticides would be more restricted and enforcement could be more uniform.

Local regulations would greatly disrupt our ability to operate our business in an efficient and cost effective manner. Limiting the use of certain pesticides in specific cities would require our team to carry significantly more pesticides to provide services as they travel from town to town. This introduces increased risk of using the wrong pesticide in the wrong place. Limiting the use of certain pesticides could limit our ability to provide consistent results to clients across different cities. Our business' reputation could be harmed by our inability to provide consistent results. To comply with varying local regulations, we would have to invest in more equipment, which would

result in increased costs for the homeowners we service. Instead of local regulations, we would promote statewide regulations on pesticides. If pesticides were restricted further in the state, we would be able to provide clients a consistent result across cities, we could standardize our operation to maintain efficiencies and the risk of accidental use would decrease.

We ask that you oppose HF 1130 - Legislation that would allow the local control of pesticide regulation. We do not ask you to oppose this to promote the lack of pesticide regulation, especially pollinator lethal pesticides. We feel there are better actions we can take. We promote enhanced efforts at a state level to regulate pesticides, such as pollinator lethal pesticides. We promote enhanced licensing and education requirements on pesticides. We promote educational programs for the general public to provide a better understanding of pesticide use.

We would be more than happy to discuss this topic in further detail with you. We can answer questions you may have and expand on any of these areas. We can be reached at 651-895-2601, will@getbiolawn.com or aaron@getbiolawn.com.

Sincerely,



William Haselbauer
Aaron Johnsen