



# Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association

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Chair Hansen, Minority Lead Heintzeman, Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony regarding HF718 which removes the preemption of local law related to pesticide regulation and enforcement in Minnesota, allowing local governments and municipalities to enact pesticide regulations. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is best equipped to regulate the sale, use, and review of these products in Minnesota based on the latest science and best information.

The Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA) opposes HF718 and efforts to shift statewide pesticide regulatory authority away from MDA in favor of a patchwork of pesticide regulations at the municipal level. As the lead pesticide regulatory agency in Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) dedicates significant resources to ensuring that its pesticide program operates effectively and uses science-based approaches to ensure that these chemicals are regulated to protect the health and safety of Minnesotans as well as the natural resources of the state.

Pesticides are important tools in the toolbox for combating many harmful pests, including emerald ash borer, noxious weeds, Japanese beetle, and other pests that pose significant threats to managed landscapes and Minnesota's natural resources. Many MNLA members are licensed pesticide applicators through MDA and are trained in the latest science-based best practices for safe and responsible pesticide application. When using these chemicals, members use these products judiciously, in accordance with the warning labels, and in a manner that protects Minnesota's natural resources and public health.

While MNLA opposes HF718, MNLA applauds the efforts of the committee to protect the state's pollinators and supports efforts to protect and establish robust pollinator habitats. However, creating the ability for local governments to restrict the use of the pesticides can create unintended consequences that can impact the public health and safety of Minnesotans and limit the ability of licensed pesticide applicators to effectively combat harmful agricultural and landscape pests throughout the state. Together with the review and labeling of pesticides at the national level under the Federal Insecticide, [Fungicide, and Rodenticide](#) Act (FIRFRA), we ask that you continue to support the regulatory the sole authority of the MDA to regulate pesticide use in Minnesota.

Respectfully,

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