



To: Members of the Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee

From: Concerned Industries

Date: March 7, 2023

Subject: Please Oppose HF 1130, legislation allowing for local control of pesticide regulations.

On behalf of agricultural producers, crop production retailers, certified crop advisors, landscape professionals, pest management businesses, golf course owners, arborists, and the businesses that support these industries in Minnesota, we respectfully ask that you oppose SF 608, legislation that jeopardizes the state's successful and existing regulatory framework for pesticides.

Since 1987, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has had sole substantive regulatory authority over pesticides, including sale, distribution, application, use, education and enforcement. Minnesota is one of 45 states that has this statutory preemption over local regulation of pesticides. The professionals at the MDA regulate and control the use of pesticides and enforce violations of state statute. All pesticide applicators are certified and licensed by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Significant State and Federal oversight ensure industry compliance and the proper use of pesticide products according to the label which is equal to law.

The cited provisions in SF 608 would undermine MDA and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory authority. This provision would allow 853 Minnesota cities to regulate and ban certain pesticides (for now) 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. Pesticides are one of the most studied and regulated products on the market.

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, ticks and rats as well as preventing environmental damage from crop destroying insects and tree/shrub destroying beetles, the Emerald Ash Borer and other invasive pests.

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.

As the committee deliberates on SF 608, please know that pollinator health is a vitally important issue to us, however this legislation ignores stakeholder input and support and works at cross purposes to efforts already underway to preserve and support pollinator populations by the state and EPA. Similarly, pesticide registrants have invested both time and resources into bee health and supporting stewardship initiatives. General information on these efforts can be found at www.growingmatters.org. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also provides extensive pollinator information and guidance to support pollinator health.

Thank you,

State Associations:

Cooperative Network

Minnesota Agricultural Aircraft Association

Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association

Minnesota Grain and Feed Association

Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association

Minnesota Pesticide Information and Education

Midwest Food Products Association

Midwest Hardware Association

National Associations:

Agricultural Retailers Association

CropLife America

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

National Agricultural Aviation Association

National Association of Landscape Professionals

National Pest Management Association

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