



March 16, 2021

**Re: HF 718 – Support of City Pesticide Authority**

Chair Sundin and members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 718. We thank the author, Rep. Vang, for her work on this issue and support the changes to pesticide regulatory authority for cities enabled in HF 718.

The League of Minnesota Cities, through the adoption of policy *SD-68. City Pesticide Application Authority* by our Board of Directors in its 2021 City Policies, supports allowing cities to determine if a prohibition on certain classes of pesticide determined by the state to be pollinator-lethal is appropriate in their community. In particular, our policy supports the change as being optional and applying to a specific list of products specified by the Department of Agriculture, rather than leaving it up to cities to determine which chemicals need to be included.

After investigating current treatment options, questions raised by the League at the previous hearing of this legislation about possible effects on management of emerald ash borer were answered. The treatment option currently preferred are would not be prohibited under this legislation, so a further exception is not needed in the bill.

We appreciate the efforts Rep. Vang and the Department of Agriculture have made to communicate with the League on this legislation and will continue to work with them as the bill progresses.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig A. Johnson'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'C' and 'J'.

Craig A. Johnson  
Intergovernmental Relations Representative  
League of Minnesota Cities