

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HF 3965 and HF3704. These bills are essential to protecting biodiversity, human, and ecosystem health. Pesticides are a huge problem within our state and across our country as they contaminate water, land, and are a threat to pollinators.

These chemicals are not a part of a healthy food system and are downright dangerous. These are poisons that can actually harm our health and the health of our children. According to the National Resources Defense Council, "A single treated corn seed can contain enough pesticide to kill about a quarter of a million bees." Pollinators are disappearing across our planet. These insects are essential to healthy food systems. According to the USDA, "pollinators—including bees, birds, bats, and butterflies—are responsible for roughly one out of every three bites of food we eat. They are crucial for the reproduction of 75% of the world's flowering plants and 35% of global food crops, significantly affecting the production of fruits, nuts, and vegetables." We need to begin to reign in the harmful agrochemical industry and work toward creating healthy food systems that do not involve poisoning beneficial insects and entire ecosystems. These bills are a good start. Other countries have banned neonicotinoids for the harm they cause to pollinators. I ask that MN keep moving our state towards creating food systems that are safer for our children and the insects that are of help us. We must do better if we want our children to know the beauty of a night sky lit up by fireflies. The pollinators are a gift. Can you imagine life without them and the labor humans would have to go through to create some of the foods we enjoy? In some places this is already happening humans have to hand pollinate certain species because of the lack of pollinators. Please work together to pass these legislative actions to address the pesticide problem. And continue to work on it relentlessly like your children's food systems depends on it. (Because it does)

Miigwech,

Leanna Goose—Leech Lake MN

Rise and Repair Alliance organizer—this testimony is my own personal perspective