



April 6, 2021

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Rep. Mike Sundin  
Chair, Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee  
417 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Testimony on HF1524—Omnibus Agriculture Finance Bill**

Dear Chair Sundin and members of the Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee:

CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) is a 30-year-old rural grassroots organization based in Montevideo, MN. CURE's work focuses on Climate, Energy, Water, and Rural Democracy. As a firmly rooted rural organization, agriculture is never far from our work and often directly intersects. Regarding HF 1524, the House Omnibus Agriculture Finance Bill, CURE supports the inclusion of the following:

We support a statewide chlorpyrifos ban. Chlorpyrifos is a widely used toxic insecticide. It has been banned for use in home settings and was nearly banned altogether in the United States. In the Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee on March 22nd, written and oral testimony were offered from a number of experts outlining the brain-damaging impacts of chlorpyrifos, especially on children. Members heard a first-hand account of a testifier who, along with her family, suffered from the effects of aerial spraying of chlorpyrifos. Testimony from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) indicated that chlorpyrifos has already been banned in several states.

We support banning the use of treated seeds for making ethanol. We also support safeguards in law for its proper disposal. An ethanol plant in Mead, Nebraska, used treated seeds to produce ethanol with disastrous and costly results. MDA testified: that state law does not currently restrict this use; that is tough to say if any companies are using treated seeds to produce ethanol in Minnesota at this time; and it is not in the law that there is anything against doing this.

We support the use of dicamba regulation enforcement money from increased dicamba registration fees. MDA testified that the dicamba situation in Minnesota is "incredibly disruptive." Until Minnesota stops the use of dicamba, a product that pits farmer against farmer, MDA should have the resources to enforce the label and state provisions on its use. This effort would bring some measure of relief to those who are suffering losses due to dicamba drift and volatility.

We support raising neonicotinoid and chlorpyrifos registration fees and

gross sales fees to support continued University of Minnesota research on pollinators—including research on pesticide, parasite, and climate disruption impacts. As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released study information that shows how dangerous some flea and tick collars for pets can be, we also support a Board of Animal Health assessment of possible flea and tick collar threats to pets and people with funding provided, recommendations required, and money appropriated.

Thank you for considering CURE's positions on HF 1524—the Omnibus Agriculture Finance Bill.

Sincerely,

Anne Borgendale  
Communications Director, CURE

Erik Hatlestad  
Energy Democracy Program Director, CURE

Peg Furshong  
Operations & Director of Programs, CURE

Duane Ninneman  
Executive Director, CURE