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March 9, 2022

Chair Mike Sundin
House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: MCPR Opposition to House File 3751

Dear Chair Sundin –

The Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR) is a nonprofit organization representing agricultural retailers and distributors, crop input suppliers, crop advisors, and registrants who supply farmers and producers with a host of products and services.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in **opposition** to **House File 3751** which would prohibit the sale or application of pesticides and fertilizers that are coated with plastic or another material that is not readily biodegradable.

The prohibition called for in House File 3751 would deny Minnesota's farmers existing products that have gone through a science-based registration process implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) under the provisions of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and the State of Minnesota's Pesticide Control Law. Minnesota's ag retail industry has worked together with our national partners for years, along with state and federal agencies, in adhering to guidelines that regulate pesticides and fertilizers. This includes seed treatments which undergo rigorous testing and review by EPA prior to being permitted to be used commercially.

Regarding the science, one of the key components used in seed treatments are polymers which help bind the active ingredients to the seed. These polymers help ensure active ingredients do their job in the soil, as well as reduce dust, which is a requirement of regulatory approval in the United States. In addition, polymers help with flow of the seed through planters, lessens the need for pesticides to be applied in soil or over the top, improves use efficiency, reduces loss, and allow farmers to have access to the newest technologies. Passage of House File 3751 would lead to increased soil applications or over the top applications which would set back decades of sustainability advancement.

Lastly, another consequence of the passage of House File 3751 would be a requirement that companies who manufacture these products would have to segregate what seed gets shipped into Minnesota. For Minnesota to be an island surrounded by other states who do not have these types of prohibitions in place would be yet another hit to an already stressed industry which is our state's second largest economic driver that contributes billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to the economy.

For these reasons above, MCPR respectfully **opposes House File 3751**. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this input to you and your fellow committee members.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

Executive Director
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers