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March 16, 2023

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

Re: **Opposition to House File 2472**

Chair Vang and Members of the House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee:

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

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in **opposition** to **H.F. 2472** which would establish a new program for systemic pesticide-treated seed. MCPR opposes this legislation as it would create a new regulatory framework for pesticide treated seed that is duplicative of federal law, as well as create a host of additional burdens for Minnesota's farming community.

For background, pesticide treated seed is thoroughly tested, reviewed, and approved in a rigorous science-based process by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Labels on these products that are approved through the EPA's vigorous registration process include seed treatments that when the label instructions are followed do not pose an unreasonable risk to humans or the environment. This review process is true not only for new products on the market, but also existing ones that are tested for safety as new information becomes available.

The proposed legislation would add additional burdensome layers of regulation for pesticide and seed treatments that are thoroughly covered by federal law which would in turn burden users without benefit. This proposed program would also lead to increased costs for a host of affected parties including retailers, seed manufacturers, seed distributors, farmers, and to all consumers. It will especially harm Minnesota's ag retailers who are already understaffed and continuously looking to fill positions within their organizations. For ag retailers to administer this additional regulatory program will also only add to their staffing shortages.

MCPR's members who include certified crop advisors take their jobs very seriously which is memorialized in our "Mission Statement" that states the organization "exists to promote the proper use, storage, and application of crop production inputs in an environmentally safe and agronomically sound manner".

Lastly, MCPR is proud to collaborate with our partners at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota Extension in hosting the annual Crop Pest Management Short Course. The purpose of the Short Course is to provide continuing education for key crop production decision makers with research based educational programs that include a wealth of pest and crop management topics including those dealing with pesticides and seed treatments. MCPR members who benefit from these educational offerings include agronomists, crop consultants, crop production specialists, and certified crop advisors.

In closing, we thank you Chair Vang and your fellow committee members for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to H.F. 2472.

Sincerely,

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

Executive Director
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers