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April 6, 2021

To: Minnesota House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee

Subject: Letter of Testimony in Support of HF766, HF670, HF408, and HF1450 for inclusion in the HF1524 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

Dear Chair Sundin and Committee Members:

Humming for Bees, along with our members and supporters, strongly support the inclusion of HF766, HF670, HF408, and HF1450, in their entirety as written, in HF1524.

HF766 strengthens labeling requirements for treated seeds and inclusion of the all language is needed to have most effect. With this, Minnesota will better protect our lands, wildlife, and waters through more responsible handling of pesticide treated seeds. Better management of these pesticides, including neonicotinoids, will reduce residual amounts that can remain in our environment, be consumed by wildlife and affect ground water. Neonicotinoids, as well as other chemicals when not managed properly, have negative and lethal effects on pollinators, insect life, water born life, and even birds and mammals. Proper disposal of unplanted seeds must be encouraged and needs to happen.

HF670 bans the use of Chlorpyrifos. Chlorpyrifos is linked to brain disorders of children and is highly toxic not just for humans but to many animals including pollinators.

H408 calls for a small pesticide regulation fee increase of 0.1 % to be allocated to pollinator research at the University of Minnesota. This is a very important step in studying pesticide, parasite and climate disruption impacts on pollinators and will further knowledge on the impacts of pesticides on other aspects of Minnesotans' health.

HF1450 This bill increases the gross sales fee by 0.1% to create a dicamba compensation program at MDA to compensate for damages caused by dicamba 2-4D drift. With increasing complaints of damage from drift of this volatile chemical, better funding for compensation programs needed.

Please continue Minnesota's leadership and stewardship in the valuing of the quality and diversity of our environment and include all of these bills, with complete language, in HF1524.

Thank you,

Jeff Dinsmore

Patricia Hauser

Co-founders, Humming for Bees