



In Favor of HB 1318
Senate Agriculture and Veterans Affairs
March 14, 2025

Chairman Luick and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Ben Bakko. I farm in Walcott and serve as a board member for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 1318.

Corn growers rely on pesticides to produce affordable and abundant crops. We need safe, appropriately regulated inputs to protect against pests and improve our crop yields. Under the Food Quality Protection Act, the EPA must determine that a pesticide poses a "reasonable certainty of no harm" before it can be registered for use on food or feed. The EPA label provides clear directions for use while minimizing risks to human health and the environment.

Eighty percent of corn acres in North Dakota rely on glyphosate. If we lose access, input costs could more than double, driving food prices higher and putting North Dakota producers at a competitive disadvantage globally.

We urge a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1318 to ensure North Dakota farmers continue to have access to the tools we use to safely and affordably feed and fuel the world. Thank you for your consideration, and I will stand for questions.