HB1318
Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee 3/14/25
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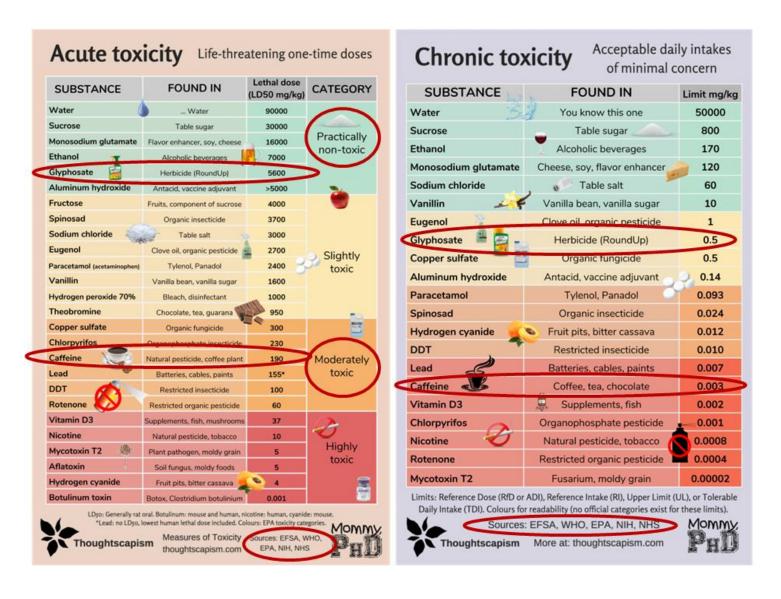
Chairman Luick and members of the Senate Agriculture and Veteran Affairs Committee, My name is Sarah Lovas and I am an agronomist from Hillsboro, ND. I submit this testimony in support of HB 1318 and ask for a DO PASS recommendation.

I have been involved in agriculture for my entire life. Agronomy and farming have been at the center of it all. As an agronomist, I have worked with farmers and applicators to help them make the best decisions with pesticides and other agronomic inputs for their farming operations. Also, during my career, I have spent a significant amount of time working on environmental impact issues in agriculture. Specifically, I have had the opportunity to work directly with the EPA on a number of issues including pesticide labeling and also education with EPA, so they understand modern agricultural practices.

HB1318 is NOT about whether glyphosate is carcinogenic and/or safe to use. The EPA has already done that work and has allowed for it's sale and use within the parameters of the label. Rather, HB1318 is about whether the label is sufficient in warning the public about it's hazards. However, I am aware of opposing testimony that will try to make this bill about safety concerns with glyphosate specifically. The LD-50 stands for Lethal Dose 50. LD-50 is a measure of toxicity of a substance. Specifically, the dose at which 50% of a test population is killed. The greater the LD-50 the more of that substance can be tolerated before half of the population is killed. In other words, a substance with a greater LD-50 is safer as opposed to a substance with a lower LD-50. According to the chart below, which is compiled from data from

reputable sources like the World Health Organization and the EPA, glyphosate has a greater LD-50 than caffeine for both acute and chronic toxicity.

However, HB1318 is about the EPA pesticide labeling being effective for ascertaining the health and environmental impacts of various pesticides. The EPA has rigorous, scientific process of evaluating the impacts of pesticides to human health and also the environment. The EPA also



considers public comments through a process where risks and benefits are considered, and

scientific data is at the center of the entire process. This process and the data considered within

the process are sufficient to explain the human health risks. The label and the MSDS for each

pesticide clearly explain the risks for human health, and the label is explicit for safe pesticide

handling. Further, every North Dakota commercial and private applicator are required to

recertify with continuing education every 3 years. These training courses emphasize the label as

the law.

In recent years it has become somewhat uncertain about the availability of some

pesticides during the growing season. Federal court proceedings or the EPA have vacated labels

almost instantaneously with little to no warning for agriculture, and with little to no scientific

evidence for the label vacation. This creates a challenging situation to manage pests in farming.

Further, often alternative pesticides are more expensive and, often, less effective for the pest

situation. This proposed legislation would help protect North Dakota agriculture from label

vacations with no scientific basis.

Thank you for your time. I would entertain any questions you may have.

ASK: Please support HB1318

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