



U.S. Durum Growers Association

PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF DURUM AND SEMOLINA

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**Testimony of Steve Perdue
President
HB 1318
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Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture Committee, my name is Steve Perdue, and I'm a farmer from Ray and serve as the President of the U.S. Durum Growers Association (USDGA). On behalf of the USDGA, we support HB 1318 to protect our tool of pesticides to maintain and grow our current production of durum.

USDGA has served to promote the production and marketing of durum wheat and semolina since 1978. The association represents grower and industry members from 10 states. We have many members from North Dakota as the acres produced in the state account for just over half of the country's durum production. Due to durum's hardness, density, high protein, and color it is milled into semolina which is ideal for use in premium pasta.

Pesticides are a tool used to protect against pests and improve crop yield. Without it, crop losses would be significant. As a result, crop revenue would decrease, and inputs would increase, resulting in higher food prices. With Durum being milled into pasta for human consumption, pesticide limitations on durum would directly impact food prices and consumers.

USDGA believes the Environmental Protection Agency has sufficient pesticide evaluations, regulations, and those registered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act have sufficient labeling. Protecting pesticides and these registrations are vital to maintain current crop production to protect durum and other crop markets and domestic and international trade of these products.

Thank you for the opportunity for USDGA to submit written testimony in support of HB 1318 and urge a favorable consideration of the bill.