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Mr. Chairman and members of the House Agriculture Committee,

I am Brent Baldwin, a farmer from Saint Thomas, North Dakota. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am representing the Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association. Our members are the sugarbeet grower-owners of American Crystal Sugar Company. Each year, our members plant around 400,000 acres of sugarbeets, or about 40% of our nation's sugarbeet crop. We are submitting testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 1318.

The use of various pesticides is vitally important to modern crop production. We have seen an influx in attacks on modern agriculture practices such as applying pesticides, and opponents will use every avenue possible to accomplish their goal of completely eliminating the use of all pesticides no matter how much science has proven them safe.

We believe this bill will help alleviate the unreasonable and baseless attacks that farmers are facing more and more often when using pesticides to protect their crop.

We encourage this committee to provide a DO PASS recommendation on HB 1318.

Brent Baldwin – Farmer – Saint Thomas, North Dakota
President - Red River Valley Sugarbeet Growers Association