

**HB1318**  
**House Agriculture Committee**  
**1/23/25**  
**Sarah E Hall Lovas, Agronomist**  
**Hillsboro, ND**

Chairman Beltz and members of the House Agriculture 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.

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 to ascertain the benefits of labeling a specific pesticide. This produces 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 as 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. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

**ASK: Please support HB1318**

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