

March 26, 2019

### Senate Bill 853

My name is Gary Vachter. I'm a third generation farmer from the St. Paul area. My wife and I have farmed for 37 years. We raise various grass seed varieties, speciality seeds, clover and filberts. We are opposed to Senate bill 853.

We have had Lorsban available to us our entire farming career. We have used Lorsban on every crop we have grown, not necessarily every year on each crop, but on an as needed basis. When we decide to use Lorsban it is because of the specific chemistry that controls insects that other insecticides don't control.

Lorsban is very good at controlling insects in the soil. These insects can destroy the root system of plants, which results in plants struggling to survive. Shallow root systems don't use nutrients or water efficiently, resulting in reduced seed production. Without exaggerating have literally saved crops by applying Lorsban.

It would be an irresponsible choice to ban Lorsban. We currently don't have an alternate product with the same chemistry. Losing this product would be devastating for our Ag industry.

In a home owner's perspective, imagine that you discovered a severe termite or carpenter ant infestation. You called an exterminator, explained your problem and asked what we can do. They explain that we used to have a product that would control them, but it was banned. Now you have no option for control. Think about this situation, that's where you would be putting us.

Please think this through very carefully and think of the consequences of this aggressive bill.

Thank you for your time. If there are any questions, I will try and answer them.

Gary Vachter