I am writing in support of HB 3058.

It is common practice with conventional farming to grow monocrops and use chemicals to manage pests and weeds while organic farms use non-toxic sprays, beneficial insects, healthy soil and physical barriers like plastic covers or greenhouses. I see the conventional model of farming to be unsustainable and detrimental to the health of communities. Sustainable farming takes a holistic approach and contributes to the health of ecosystems.

Here is some information I found from an article by the Pesticide Action Network titled *Chlorpyrifos: Non-Chemical Alternatives:*

Elements of alternative or ecological pest management

• Designing a farm ecosystem that encourages biodiversity, providing habitats for beneficial insects;
• Using resistant, often indigenous, crop varieties;
• Diversifying crops by intercropping, rotation, and use of multiple varieties;
• Companion planting to deter pests;
• Enhancing the habitats and hence populations of (or introducing) natural enemies such as parasitoids like the *Encarsia* wasp and predators like the damselfly and spiders, as well as birds where appropriate; other beneficial insects that control pests for which chlorpyrifos is used include Braconid, *Cotesia* wasp, damsel bug, *Diadegma* wasp, carabid beetle, hoverfly, lacewing, ladybird beetles, minute pirate bug, praying mantis, predatory mites, rove beetles, spiders, tachinid flies, *Tiphia* wasp, and *Trichogramma*
• Systematic scouting of crops for pests and natural enemies, either regularly or at susceptible times, sometimes involving the use of sweep nets, sticky traps, and pheromone traps;
• Use of mechanical methods such as light traps, fruit fly traps, reflective ribbon, bird perches, pheromone traps, sticky board traps, soil baits, soil traps, bagging of fruit, and plant ash; and
• Use of pheromone traps to trap insects and pheromone dispensers to disrupt mating.

I have horses and I live next to farms with cattle, sheep and horses. Flies can easily get out of control and be a big problem. I have been using Fly Predators from Spalding Labs for several years now and they work great! The larvae of these gnat like insects are sprinkled on manure piles and when they hatch, they eat the fly larvae. This is one example of how pests can be managed without chemicals.

More detailed information on specific types of insects and non-toxic sprays used in place of pesticides can be found on the website: panna.org.

Why do we continually have to choose between A) allowing a business/farm to continue using a known hazardous chemical, so they don't have to change their methods and B) the health of a community? Why is this an issue, especially when there are viable alternatives? I'm sorry if a business might not make as much money but we are a creative species and can find ways to improve the way we do things.

Approaches to management of pests should rely on ecosystem management rather than external inputs, with the first line of defense against pests being a healthy agroecosystem. Such approaches have shown increased or similar yields, greater returns to farmers, and improvement in social and environmental indicators.

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