

Jonathan Smith

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Opponent Testimony

HB 2476 - Lessening restrictions on pesticide labeling

Written Testimony Only

Private Citizen, Written on behalf of self

Good Morning Chair Rahjes and committee members, thank you for taking the time to read my testimony today. My name is Jonathan Smith, a voter in Shawnee County, and it is my opinion that the wording of HB 2476 would allow giant agrichemical manufacturers to much more easily be shielded from litigation in the event that their products end up causing calamitous harms. It is for this reason that I urge you all to vote in opposition of HB 2476.

We have all seen times in history from various pesticide manufacturers, where their best intentions lead to horrendous outcomes, ruining land, harming or killing people. Do we not remember DDT?

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DDT>

There were prizes and fortunes made on the wondrous effects and efficiency of DDT as an insecticide, all for us to realize years later that it was leading, with a fairly strong correlation, to the near eradication of the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, both species who saw large population growths after discontinuing the use of DDT nationally.

The story of Roundup is also similar! With high praise and widespread use being the norm before realizing that it was fairly likely to be causing cancer in humans, as well as decimating local insect populations, which leads to local collapse of bird populations, which has a large impact on the health of trees in the local ecosystem and animals that eat birds and bird eggs, and when the trees go, we see multiple negative health consequences for us as humans.

<https://www.drugwatch.com/legal/roundup-lawsuit/>

We must remain ever vigilant and keep as many arrows in our quiver in the fight to protect ourselves, our families, our communities, and our local ecosystems from these giant chemical manufacturers who are doing the math and trying to figure out just how much damage and harm they can get away with while still making money.

This bill allows for a larger potential harm that they can cause without that fear of litigation.

With these things in mind, I can't, in good conscience, support HB 2476, and so without significant changes to the wording of the bill, I must urge you to oppose HB 2476 and vote the bill down. Protect our state, our people, and our environment from excessive chemical experimentation from these corporations. Do not further protect these companies that are already difficult to protect from. Thank you chair and committee members.

Thank you for taking the time,

- Jonathan Smith

Private Citizen in Shawnee County