



HATFIELD SPRAYING SERVICE, INC.

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January 31, 2022

Dakota Soda
House Ag Clerk State of Michigan
dsoda@house.mi.gov

RE: House Bill 5700 (2022)

It has come to our attention that the House Agriculture Standing Committee will be holding a hearing on Wednesday February 2nd concerning changing the wording to House Bill 5700 (2022). Our company Hatfield Spraying Service has been operation in Nunica, Michigan since 1970 and we would like you to record our stance that we object to the change in language.

State of Michigan House Bill No 5700 amendment has been proposed to amend 1994 PA 451 entitled "Natural resources and environmental protection act," by amending section 8320 (MCL 324.8320). THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT: 1 Sec. 8320 (1) The director may enter into reciprocal agreements with other states or federal agencies for the purpose of accepting certification or registration required for pesticide applicators. If those states or federal agencies have an approved program to certify or register applicators, and if the requirements for certification or registration by those states or federal agencies equal or exceed the certifications or registration requirements of this state should be not accepted.

The proposed modification of language to **"the pesticide applicator does not need to meet the requirements under section 8315 (2)"** is unnecessary and increases the potential of harm both to existing business and land owners in our state. By lowering the minimum standard to less than it is for business currently operating in the state we risk:

- By not requiring out of state to meet the same requirements as your resident businesses it creates an unfair level of competition. A risk of loss income to businesses like ours that have been actively caring for Michigan's farm and forest lands over 50 years is unfair. Currently there is plenty of qualified and certified Agricultural Aviation business in the State of Michigan to provide a fair trade and competitive pricing platform in the state and its residents.
- Michigan hosts one of the most diversified agricultural environments in the United States and requires specific knowledge to treat farmland that is next to forest and vice versa without causing damage. Increases of potential risk to farm land and forests by less than qualified and with a lack of experience specific to our state is a real possibility. There currently are affordable ways to become licensed to work in the state for all out of state operations to prove they have the knowledge and experience necessary to operate safely in the state and meet the same requirements as instate operations due.

House Bill No 5700 as it stands has worked effectively for several years and is in no need of change. As an elected official in the State of Michigan you are elected to protect the people, the resources and the economy of our state. If you have any questions or would like to speak further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (616) 837-6979.

Sincerely,


William Hatfield