



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 544		DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Agriculture		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARI FILIP		PHONE NUMBER:
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EMAIL: ari.filip@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 5:39 PM

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My name is Ari Filip, and I am a practicing board-certified Medical Toxicologist and Emergency Medicine physician. I am here on behalf of myself, though I do work as Medical Director of the Arkansas Poison and Drug Information Center (also known as Arkansas Poison Control). I have formal subspecialty toxicology training that requires understanding of the regulatory framework and history surrounding insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides. I routinely lecture on topics related to this as part of my job. As an individual whose job hinges on appropriate risk communication of what is toxic and what is not: I applaud any effort to simplify and standardize guidance surrounding potential carcinogens. As you know, all pesticides must be registered with the EPA, under the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (i.e. FIFRA). This federal law, which has been updated and amended over a dozen times, describes labeling requirements for agents that are either known, potential, or suggested carcinogens. Among the numerous environmental, animal, and human studies the EPA evaluates: it specifically appraises the long-term toxicity and cancer-causing potential of any pesticide. As part of this process, regulators introduce orders of magnitude of safety buffer in estimating real risk to humans. These pesticides are rigorously evaluated at the highest level. Permitting contradictory information regarding the safety of these thoroughly tested pesticides is misleading and injects unnecessary confusion. My big worry can be summarized as follows: if you allow labeling to say that anything is toxic, then really what you're saying is nothing is toxic. And that's not what we want. California's Proposition 65 has shown us that businesses will be eager to take up these labels rather than risk nuisance litigation, irrespective of the real inherent risks. We don't want to obscure genuine toxicants by allowing them to wind up in a common bucket of "everything's toxic". This bill would set an important precedent by acknowledging FIFRA as the law of the land and protecting this existing standard for pesticide labeling. This is in line with a recent joint petition from several Attorneys General, including my own state of Arkansas, which asserts that adding additional, contradictory labeling, would constitute misbranding under FIFRA. I welcome steps such as these to provide clarity towards this high-stakes issue, and I again reiterate my support these labels should reflect the land of the law.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CATHERINE HANAWAY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ELIZABETH BURNS-THOMPSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Introduction Good morning, Chairman Justus, Vice Chairman Haley, and members of the Agriculture Committee. My name is Elizabeth Burns-Thompson, and I'm here today on behalf of the Modern Ag Alliance—a diverse coalition of 90(+) agricultural groups that advocates for U.S. farmers' continued access to the crop protection tools they need to ensure we have a robust and affordable food supply. Our coalition proudly includes partners from right here in Missouri, such as the Missouri Corn Growers Association, Agribusiness Association, Soybean Association, Cattlemen's Association, and Pork Association. As someone who grew up on a family farm growing corn and soy, it's an honor to be here today to stand with Missouri farmers in support of House Bill 544. Glyphosate's Importance to Missouri Agriculture is the backbone of Missouri's economy, contributing over \$16 billion annually and employing nearly 460,000 people across the state. 1 As you all know, our farmers rely on many tools to sustain their success, with crop protection products being some of the most important. Glyphosate-based herbicides are farmers' number one tool to control weeds, keep yields high, and implement conservation practices that use less land and resources. As a top-10 U.S. producer of corn and soybeans, Missouri relies heavily on glyphosate. 2 66% of corn and 91% of all soybean acres in Missouri rely on glyphosate to control invasive weeds, keep costs low, and ensure we have enough to eat. 3 Glyphosate saves Missouri farmers an estimated \$358M annually compared to traditional tilling methods and pricier alternatives. Those savings go right back into Missouri's economy, and ensure we don't pay higher prices at the grocery store. 4 Without glyphosate, consumers who are still reeling from the effects of historic inflation could see food inflation more than double. 5 Safety and Regulatory Certainty For over 50 years, glyphosate has been a proven, trusted tool for farmers helping them reduce crop losses and stay competitive in a global marketplace. Glyphosate's safety has been consistently reaffirmed by regulators here in the U.S. and across the globe, including as recently as 2023. 6 Backed by over 1,500 studies and five decades of research, glyphosate-based herbicides are among the most thoroughly tested agricultural products available. Yet, despite the clear science behind glyphosate's safety and benefits, a lack of legislative certainty has invited the litigation industry to file tens of thousands of lawsuits fueled by over \$100 million in expansive marketing and TV ads. This uncertainty has also enabled efforts in states like California to regulate pesticides in a manner inconsistent with federal law, congressional intent, and scientific consensus. This has created unsustainable realities that could threaten the future of glyphosate and other critical innovations. House Bill 544 protects access to these critical tools by ensuring certainty and consistency in pesticide labeling regulations. This bill would simply ensure any pesticide registered with the EPA—and sold under a label consistent with the EPA's own determinations—is sufficient to satisfy requirements for health and safety warnings. It does not preclude anyone from suing pesticide manufacturers. In other words, House Bill 544 would protect farmers from a confusing patchwork of

conflicting state regulations and stand behind the strong, science-based processes already in place today. Conclusion Let me be clear, this legislation is about protecting the backbone of our food system—America’s farmers. We all know that farmers already have enough on their plates without having to navigate the potential loss of another critical tool in their toolboxes. House Bill 544 helps keep things simple and ensures they can focus on what they do best: growing the food, fiber, and fuel we all depend on. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify and thank you for standing up for Missouri farmers. I welcome your questions.

1. Missouri Department of Agriculture, <https://agriculture.mo.gov/topcommodities.php>
2. USDA National Agriculture Statistics Services, “2023 State Agricultural Overview, Missouri,” https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/Ag_Overview/stateOverview.php?state=MISSOURI
3. Aimpoint Research/The Directions Group, “Farm Bill Programs and the Role of Crop Protection Tools,” <https://report-directionsgroup.com/farm-bill/>
4. Aimpoint Research, 2024.
5. Aimpoint Research/The Directions Group, “Farm Bill Programs and the Role of Crop Protection Tools,” <https://report-directionsgroup.com/farm-bill/>
6. Bayer, “Glyphosate Safety Record,” <https://www.bayer.com/en/is-glyphosate-safe>.



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WITNESS NAME			
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WITNESS NAME: JACOB KNAEBEL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4181	
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WITNESS NAME: KELLY GILLESPIE		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-9267
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This bill is important for farmers access to weed control. Additionally, there is an important message in keeping Missouri's reputation as a predictable and low cost state to site your business.



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WITNESS NAME		
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WITNESS NAME: MARK FIEGENBAUM		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-8580
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WITNESS NAME			
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WITNESS NAME: MATTHEW JAMES SMITH		PHONE NUMBER: 417-988-2257	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: RANDY RODGERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: S. ELIZA LOCKWOOD		PHONE NUMBER:	
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WITNESS NAME			
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WITNESS NAME: SHANNON COOPER		PHONE NUMBER: 660-890-1432	
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EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STAN CASTEEL		PHONE NUMBER:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: AMY GUNN		PHONE NUMBER:	
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ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
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EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 11:43 PM
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I am in Opposition to this Legislation as Proposed. This Bill does not favor Citizens of Missouri, but Pesticide Manufactures.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BEV EHLEN		PHONE NUMBER:	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: BRENDA A. PECULIS, PH.D.		PHONE NUMBER:
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To the Members of the House Agricultural Committee: My name is Brenda Peculis. I am here speaking as an individual in opposition to the bill. I am knowledgeable of the chemical Glyphosate as a retired Professor of Biochemistry at Mizzou. As a Booneslick Master Naturalist, I remove invasive honeysuckle in Columbia City Parks. While wearing appropriate protective clothing, I apply small amounts of Glyphosate to prevent resprouting of this invasive plant. Our use is judicious and prudent, cutting stumps and directly applying only enough glyphosate to the cut stump to kill the plant. Glyphosate, when properly applied CAN be a useful product. The question at hand is how to keep the use of glyphosate as safe and effective as possible while protecting the public. Clear and truthful, accurate labeling that reflects what is scientifically and publically known (not just what a company wants to share) is critical. I am aware that aerial spraying large quantities of Glyphosate results in this chemical persisting in the environment. Glyphosate residue alters the microbial biome in soil, and runs off of fields, onto surrounding properties and into waterways. Furthermore, recently published epidemiological data confirms that glyphosate is a possible carcinogen and can affect unborn children (1, 2) Earlier studies (3) of pregnant women in Indiana showed measurable amounts of glyphosate in their urine, and demonstrated links to shortened pregnancy length and infants with lowered birth weights. One conclusion, based on where the women lived was that glyphosate was acquired in their diet. The more recent and much larger epidemiological study (1, 2), published a week ago, demonstrated that glyphosate harms infants. Babies in rural counties are now born earlier and with below-average weight. These changes, although small, could result in more than \$1 billion in additional health care costs nationwide each year. Animal studies have shown that increased dosage of glyphosate results in cancer and birth defects. Researchers and Scientists can NOT do dosage studies on humans for moral and ethical reasons - Allowing application of glyphosate without appropriate cautionary labeling will mean that Missouri citizens, especially FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WILL be unwitting guinea pigs for high dosage or contamination and unintended exposure experiments. The EPA currently states that Glyphosate is safe to use – with proper precautions. However, this statement has been under review for 5 years, based on the past 10 years of NEW research by the broader scientific community on the effects of glyphosate in humans. If Missouri prevents the appropriate warnings and cautionary labels for correct application, it will further harm our infants – your children and Grandchildren. Remember that oxycontin is a useful pharmaceutical – but without proper regulation, warning labels and monitoring, it became poisonous to our whole society. Why would you NOT hold Bayer accountable for this potential massive cost in health and money? Thank you Dr. Brenda Peculis 505 Silver Thorne Dr Columbia MO, 65203 Citations 1 Glyphosate exposure and GM seed rollout unequally reduced perinatal health Emmett Reynier and Edward Rubin Proceedings of the National Academy of Science January 14, 2025 122 (3) e2413013121

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.24130131212> Common weed killer may be harming infants



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROL A. ELLIOTT		PHONE NUMBER:	
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I oppose HB-544. This bill proposes to revise Missouri Statutes Section 281.260 to add a section stating "For any pesticide registered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), a pesticide label approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or consistent with the United States Environmental Protection Agency carcinogenicity classification of the pesticide under FIFRA, shall be sufficient to satisfy any requirement for a warning label regarding cancer under any other provision of current law."

In plain language, this means those who distribute, sell, or transport pesticides in the state of Missouri would be able to rely solely on EPA labelling for these products. It means consumers and users of pesticides would have to trust information provided by the EPA regarding the safety of these products. One of the chemicals used in pesticides is glyphosate. Roundup is a product that contains glyphosate. It is produced by Bayer CropScience headquartered in St. Louis. It appears that the proposed change in law might be particularly beneficial to Bayer, which has been involved in lawsuits in all 50 states alleging Roundup has caused cancer in plaintiffs. There is a lack of consensus in scientific opinion over whether glyphosate is carcinogenic. The EPA has determined that glyphosate is "Not likely to be carcinogenic to humans." However, many experts on the US EPA's FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel (FIFRA SAP) found the Agency did not follow its own Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment in reaching this conclusion. "Many Panel members believe that the EPA did not provide convincing evidence of a lack of carcinogenic effects. These Panelists agreed that the conclusion [glyphosate is] "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans" is incorrect. They support a conclusion of "suggestive evidence of carcinogenic potential." The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) found that the glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans" and "A positive association has been observed for non-Hodgkin lymphoma." IARC concluded that "data from all studies combined show a statistically significant association between non-Hodgkin lymphoma and exposure to glyphosate." Other European agencies such as the European Chemicals Agency and the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety have recommended additional data analysis to determine whether glyphosate is a human carcinogen. Proposition 65 is a California law that requires businesses to warn Californians about chemical exposures. The state of California has adopted a Proposition 65 warning for glyphosate. From the California EPA's document on Warnings for Exposures to Glyphosate from Consumer Products: "It is important for individuals who are exposed to Proposition 65 listed chemicals to be given hazard information so they can make their own decisions about exposures to these chemicals. This issue has been discussed in tort cases brought by the plaintiffs' bar that are based on the allegation that exposures to glyphosate caused individuals' non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Some of these cases have yielded multi-million-dollar verdicts that have survived appellate review, though some have had the jury-awarded damages reduced. In these cases, juries and courts have found warning to be an

important safeguard that was missing in these situations." To protect the health of citizens in the state of Missouri and other states, Missouri should continue to require its own labelling for pesticides under current law. Missouri's labelling information can conceivably include information that is different from EPA's labelling information to provide more information to consumers. It is clear from the glyphosate example that the EPA should not be the sole source to be relied upon regarding the safety of pesticides. This is particularly important for people who are exposed to pesticides in their occupations such as farmers, foresters, and those whose jobs routinely involve pesticide use.

In conclusion, I would like to share the story of my father, who was an avid home gardener. I vividly remember him cultivating a couple of pear trees in our back yard and air spraying them with chemicals. It is too late to know what chemicals he used, but in 1994 he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and had an operation to remove 2/3rds of his stomach, severely impacting his ability to absorb nutrients from food. He is gone now, but with better information we have now about glyphosate I hope that others involved in crop production and weed control are saved from the fate of having this chemical and others affect their health and livelihood. References:
<https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/crn/glyphosateisor071921.pdf>



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WITNESS NAME			
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My best friend used Round-Up on her rose bushes for several years and was then diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma. She underwent chemo, which hospitalized her and took her away from her young children because her weakened immune system had to be protected from possible illnesses. She went through early menopause preventing her from having more children and causing early onset of loss of bone density. The Round-Up should have be more clearly labeled that it can cause cancer. The EPA has withdrawn its finding that Round-Up is unlikely to be a carcinogen" and has restarted its review.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 544		DATE: 1/28/2025	
COMMITTEE: Agriculture			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DON CROZIER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: doncrozier@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2025 2:53 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

?HB 544 provides legal protection to pesticide manufacturers from "failure-to-warn" liability, which opens up Missouri consumers to all sorts of issues. When corporations manufacture products that are dangerous by their very nature, they must be prepared to face potential lawsuits from the harm.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: DOUGLAS DOUGHTY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILL NUMBER: HB 544		DATE: 1/28/2025	
COMMITTEE: Agriculture			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ETHAN DUKE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: GINA MEYER		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: jemeyer1955@comcast.net	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 5:39 PM
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Please do not sell our health for the benefit of pesticide manufacturers.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KATHLEEN DOLSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kdolson1@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2025 12:22 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

The Missouri Legislature should be protecting the citizens of MO with policy proposals, NOT protecting large corporations' profits. You are in the Capitol to represent the interests of your constituents, NOT multinational corporations. HB 544 seeks to bar users of certain agricultural chemicals from bringing duty to warn claims against agricultural manufacturers should the users become harmed. Specifically, this bill seeks to protect agricultural manufacturers from lawsuits for harm caused by exposure to their chemical products governed by EPA and/or the federal Fungicide, Insecticide and Rodenticide Act. When corporations are in the business of selling inherently dangerous products, they are susceptible to litigation when the product is not sufficiently labeled to inform consumers of the health risk.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 544		DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Agriculture		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: KATHY J MARINCEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: kmarincel@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 6:02 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

The financial interests of pesticide manufacturers would be put above the well-being of Missouri residents under this bill by hampering the public's right to know the potential hazards and risks of their products - information that is currently required under state law.- Manufacturers of potentially harmful chemicals would be protected from being sued for the harm their products cause Missouri residents under this bill which would provide them a diluted duty to warn of the hazards of using their product.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 544		DATE: 1/28/2025	
COMMITTEE: Agriculture			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: kortniehuddleston@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 7:32 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am writing to voice my firm opposition to HB544 (Diehl), which would weaken essential safeguards for public health and safety. This legislation aims to prevent users of certain agricultural chemicals from pursuing "duty to warn" claims against agricultural manufacturers if they suffer harm. Specifically, it seeks to shield agricultural manufacturers from lawsuits related to injuries caused by exposure to their chemical products, which are regulated by the EPA and/or the federal Fungicide, Insecticide, and Rodenticide Act. Companies that produce inherently hazardous products—dangerous not due to defects or manufacturing errors, but because the products themselves pose inherent risks to human health—should be held accountable when they fail to adequately warn users of these dangers. Those who typically file claims against agricultural manufacturers are often farmers and pesticide applicators who, after being exposed to these chemicals, have been diagnosed with illnesses such as Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and other cancers. Numerous lawsuits have been filed against Bayer/Monsanto regarding glyphosate, with many plaintiffs receiving significant jury awards or settlements to compensate for their health damages. As of 2022, Bayer has settled over 1,000 lawsuits, paying approximately \$11 billion, and still faces around 30,000 pending cases. Agricultural chemical manufacturers, frustrated by the volume of litigation, have launched a nationwide campaign to evade liability for the harm their products may cause. Missouri is one of several states where similar legislation has been introduced, reflecting a broader effort to protect large chemical corporations from legal accountability. While companies like Bayer may feel burdened by the number of lawsuits they face, this is an inherent risk of manufacturing products that are inherently dangerous, especially when they fail to provide sufficient warnings to users. Farmers and chemical applicators in our state should not be deprived of their legal right to seek justice for inadequate warnings. It is crucial that these protections remain intact to ensure accountability and safeguard public health.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Agriculture		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MAHREE SKALA		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: skalamahree@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 1:36 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Missourians should continue to have the right to know the potential risks and hazards of the products they use, as under current law. There is no good reason to scale back these protections for consumers. Protecting chemical manufacturers from lawsuits caused by their products is not as important as protecting the health of Missourians.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE: Agriculture			
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MARCIA CRANDALL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: marcielynnsmail@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2025 2:41 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This is strictly letting the fox into the hen house. Pesticide manufacturers have already proven that they place profits over public health and will lie through their teeth to sell their products. Do you represent the people of Missouri using these products and consuming them or do you represent pesticide manufacturers. Your vote for this law will let us know that money is more important to you than your constituents.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MARILYN MCLEOD		PHONE NUMBER: 573-239-3708	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 8706 MANCHESTER RD., SUITE 104			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63144
EMAIL: marilyn_mcleod@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 9:13 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The League of Women Voters believes the public has a right to know about dangers to health and the environment. If passed, this legislation would put the financial interests of pesticide manufacturers above the well-being of Missouri residents by hampering the public's right to know the potential hazards and risks of their products - information that is currently required under state law. Manufacturers of potentially harmful chemicals would be protected from being sued for the harm their products cause Missouri residents under this bill which would provide them a diluted duty to warn of the hazards of using their product. Therefore, the League opposes this legislation.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT CLEMENT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELINDA HEMMELGARN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: foodsleuth@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2025 12:34 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

My name is Melinda Hemmelgarn. I'm a retired registered dietitian who continues to research and work in a volunteer capacity at the intersection of food, health and agriculture. I also voluntarily serve on the Beyond Pesticides Board, where I am joined by a nationwide network of famers, scientists, and health care providers to raise awareness about the potential health harms from pesticides. I am dedicated to protecting public and environmental health and am testifying today as an individual and not on behalf of any organization or business. I have the utmost respect for farmers and seek to protect their health and well-being. Without them, we would not eat! It is in that vein that I am writing to ask that the agriculture committee vote NO on HB 544. In a nutshell, HB 544 serves to benefit the manufacturers of agricultural chemicals by granting them immunity from lawsuits from farmers who develop illnesses related to the use of their agricultural chemicals. In so doing, this bill fails to protect or benefit farmers. Contrary to fear-mongering messages, this bill will not restrict farmers' access to agricultural chemicals should they choose to use them. Instead, the bill will limit farmers' ability to seek damages if they are harmed from using these chemicals. I believe farmers/MO citizens deserve the right to seek such compensation and hold manufacturers accountable. Please note that the EPA label is not enough to adequately protect and inform farmers. The EPA does not do independent testing of pesticides for safety, but instead relies on manufacturers' research, which would seem to present a conflict of interest. There is a growing body of evidence from independent scientific research showing that farmers who use certain pesticides have a higher incidence of illness, such as cancer and Parkinson's disease. Farmers deserve to be fairly warned. Just as we have warnings on cigarette packages, citizens deserve to know if using a product will put them in harm's way. I would hope that our MO representatives would follow our state motto and make the welfare of people the supreme law. Let's protect farmers, not corporations. Please reach out if you have any questions: 573-864-5791; foodsleuth@gmail.com



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MELISSA VATTEROTT		PHONE NUMBER: 314-581-0561	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND STRATEGY	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE SUITE 100			
CITY: UNIVERSITY CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mvatterott@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 9:52 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Dear Chairman Justus and Members of the Committee, Missouri Coalition for the Environment is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. On behalf of MCE, I am testifying in opposition to House Bill 544 and urge this committee to vote “no” on this bill. As I expressed last year, this bill is tremendously dangerous for the health and safety of Missourians. HB 544 seeks to bar users of certain agricultural chemicals from bringing duty to warn claims against agricultural manufacturers should the users become harmed. Specifically, this bill is seeking to protect agricultural manufacturers from lawsuits for harm caused by exposure to their chemical products governed by EPA and/or the federal Fungicide, Insecticide and Rodenticide Act. Corporations that by the very nature of their business deal in dangerous products - not because the product has a defect or there was a manufacturing defect, but because the product itself is inherently dangerous to humans - are susceptible to litigation when their products are not sufficiently labeled warning the user of the health risks. Those who would bring claims against agriculture manufacturers have usually been farmers and pesticide applicators who were exposed to these chemicals and later diagnosed with diseases such as Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and other cancers. As you may know, there have been several cases filed against Bayer/Monsanto involving glyphosate and in many cases the harmed parties have received large jury awards and settlements to compensate them for their health harms. Agriculture chemical manufacturers are upset by all the lawsuits facing them and in retaliation, they have chosen to lead a nationwide effort to shield themselves from liability for harms caused. Missouri is only one of several states where this exact language has been filed. Does Missouri really want to be a state that says, “We in Missouri care more about the corporations that sell products in our state than the people who live here?” We at MCE hope not. Although sponsors of these bills claim that the pesticide label from EPA is a sufficient warning, users have been misled by advertising touting the products’ safety. Supporters of this bill may also say that this bill would not restrict lawsuits against pesticide manufacturers for a number of claims, including product defects, drift or misapplication, or if the manufacturer fraudulently conceals known facts about the product. While this is true, the overwhelming majority of successful cases for pesticide injury lawsuits fall under “failure-to-warn” claims. We should not be taking away this important tool that our legal system provides to citizens harmed by using a product. If this committee supports HB 544, it is making the statement that it is comfortable with rendering victims without effective legal recourse and releasing industry actors such as Bayer from billions of dollars in ongoing and future settlements. As of 2022, Bayer settled over 1,000 lawsuits paying out approximately \$11 billion and faces an additional 30,000 lawsuits pending. While I understand that companies like Bayer may be overwhelmed by the number of lawsuits they have settled and are still in, this is the cost of doing

business when you manufacture a product that is inherently harmful and fail to provide adequate warning to the users so that they can make an informed decision about whether to use your product. The farmers and chemical applicators in our state should not be stripped of their legal right to sue for failure to warn. For these reasons, MCE respectfully asks you to vote "no" on HB 544. Thank you so much for your time.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MELODY NEWTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: newtonmelodyd@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/25/2025 4:34 PM

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I oppose this bill. This committee is duty bound to protect the rights and well being of the citizens it represents, not corporate special interests.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: libertytree.cottage976@passinbox.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 11:00 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I OPPOSE HB 544 as originally filed. -----We need more protections in this case, not fewer protections. -----I don't trust the federal EPA, and I don't think Missouri should rely on them to get anything right. -----This bill seems to favor Big Agriculture while putting ordinary Missouri citizens at an increased risk. -----This bill puts way too much faith in the federal government to do what we should be doing ourselves.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mdreyer93@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 7:29 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB544 (Diehl), which would undermine critical protections for public health and safety. These bills seek to bar users of certain agricultural chemicals from bringing “duty to warn” claims against agricultural manufacturers should the users become harmed. Specifically, these bills seek to protect agricultural manufacturers from lawsuits for harm caused by exposure to their chemical products governed by EPA and/or the federal Fungicide, Insecticide and Rodenticide Act. Corporations that by the very nature of their business deal in dangerous products (not because the product has a defect or there was a manufacturing defect, but because the product itself is inherently dangerous to humans) are susceptible to litigation when their products are not sufficiently labeled warning the user of the health risks. Those who would bring claims against agriculture manufacturers have usually been farmers and pesticide applicators who were exposed to these chemicals and later diagnosed with diseases such as Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma and other cancers. There have been several cases filed against Bayer/Monsanto involving glyphosate and in many cases the harmed parties have received large jury awards and settlements to compensate them for their health harms. As of 2022, Bayer settled over 1,000 lawsuits paying out approximately \$11 billion and faces an additional 30,000 lawsuits pending. Agriculture chemical manufacturers are upset by all the lawsuits facing them and in retaliation, they have chosen to lead a nationwide effort to shield themselves from liability for harms caused. Missouri is only one of several states where this exact language has been filed. This is an attempt to shield large chemical companies from legal accountability for harms they may cause. While companies like Bayer may feel overwhelmed by the number of lawsuits they have settled and are still in, this is the cost of doing business when you manufacture a product that is inherently harmful and fail to provide adequate warning to the users so that they can make an informed decision about whether to use your product. The farmers and chemical applicators in our state should not be stripped of their legal right to sue for failure to warn.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: NANCY ADKINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: mommyana6308@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 7:51 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

As we all know Roundup is a pesticide and by definition pesticides are designed to kill all types of insects, rodents and fungus and as such these applications have a negative effect on human health and our natural world. Without a doubt, the heavy use of pesticides has been linked to cancer, neurological disorders, delayed childhood development and reproductive health. Besides killing pests it also has a very negative effect on our pollinators, which as Einstein knew without bees mankind cannot exist !! It would be reckless and unconscionable to allow protections to a company and its products that have such a detrimental impact in our world. Bayer understands this and that is why they are asking you to protect them from being held accountable. I urge you to oppose this bill !! Protect the people and the planet. NOT the corporation !! Thank you. Sincerely, Nancy Adkins, Imperial, Mo.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD OSWALD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rro1950@gmail.com		ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/24/2025 8:56 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Members of the committee I am a 74 year old lifelong Missouri farmer with experience using pesticides including glyohosate and many others. Some of those other chemicals are methoxychlor, furadan, DDT, 2,4,5-T, aldrin, and malathion. None of those other pesticides I list are available today because they have been removed from the market due to health and environmental risk. Science shows that glyohosate may cause certain illnesses in people exposed to it. While SB544 would most certainly shield Bayer from liability for those side effects, it would do nothing for victims of them. Simple warnings placed on containers of dangerous pesticides do not remove them from the market just as they have not removed tobacco products from the market. But they do give people one last chance to find a different path. Please remember the farm families you serve and their health and future while considering this bill. SB544 does nothing for those Missouri citizens but could be worth billions to a German corporation that seeks only to serve itself for profit. Respectfully submitted, Richard Oswald



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RIVA CAPELLARI		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rivacapellari@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 9:37 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

This bill will once again puts the profits of corporations over the well being of citizens. Farmers especially will be harmed most by diluted warnings on a product. These products need to be evaluated by an outside source. Missouri Coalition for the Environmental shows that most successful lawsuits against these companies fall under the "failure to warn" so now they want to eliminate this category from lawsuits even if the company takes part in deceptive advertising about the harms of their products.



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STACY TURPIN CHEAVENS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: stacyturpichev@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 4:20 PM

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Please prioritize the health of our farmers over pesticide manufacturers, and their right to seek justice if the need arises. Vote no on HB544



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TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 12:00 PM

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It's impossible for me to understand why the bill sponsor wants Missourians to suffer with cancer caused by pesticides without recourse. Please do not advance this bill.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TRINA CRAWFORD		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2025 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 544		DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Agriculture		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: VRENI JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: vrenijones@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2025 7:35 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

Please oppose this bill, and not be another bill mill for lobbyists going around the country attempting to dilute our laws in favor of the interests of pesticide manufacturers. Missouri residents should be fully informed of the hazards of the manufacturers' pesticides. EPA warnings are insufficient because they are based largely on studies paid for by the pesticide companies themselves, who have a vested interest in slanting the results in their favor and to the detriment of Missourians.



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 544		DATE: 1/28/2025
COMMITTEE: Agriculture		
TESTIFYING: <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: VRENI JONES		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: vrenijones@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/23/2025 12:55 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		

This bill puts the financial interests of pesticide manufacturers above the health and well-being of Missouri residents by hampering their right to know the potential hazards and risks of their products. Federal EPA required warnings are inadequate because these warnings are largely based on safety studies conducted by the pesticide companies themselves, who have a vested interest in skewing the results to make it appear that they are unaware of the real hazards of their products.