



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2844		DATE: 3/11/2026	
COMMITTEE: General Laws			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CAROLYN NISWONGER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-956-5321	
REPRESENTING: SIERRA CLUB - MISSOURI CHAPTER		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: GRANT NIVER		PHONE NUMBER: 907-232-5596	
REPRESENTING: MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSONS RESEARCH		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 10028 PARK CIRCLE			
CITY: BLOOMINGTON		STATE: MN	ZIP: 54420
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JANET NOBLE		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 2:02 PM
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My Grandfather was a farmer, who lived in Montgomery County, Missouri & died with Parkinson's at age 72. His life was utter hell at the end. Neurological diseases are difficult to find any type of resolving treatment enabling the patient to perform normal daily activities. My cousin has also died recently of Parkinson's. Neurological diseases are on the rise and must be attributed to pesticide and chemical use. Research studies are now finding clusters of people with neurological diseases & thus it can not be attributed to being hereditary alone. You probably know someone who has Parkinson's or is going to get it. It could be you or a member of your family. You, as a legislator have an opportunity to stop use of Paraquat in Missouri. Please support this bill & advance it out of committee. The lives of your fellow Missourians literally depend on it.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: JILL GATCOMBE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 5:54 PM
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My grandfather died from Parkinson's Disease. Although it was many years ago, prior to Paraquat, Parkinson's Disease is a devastating illness. I oppose the use of this chemical on farm fields as it is a contributing factor to the onset of Parkinson's. Please support this bill as it will keep Missourians safe.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JOY WEESE MOLL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 4:05 PM
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A ban on Paraquat will improve the health of Missouri farmers and farm workers.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KORTNIE HUDDLESTON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 11:20 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MAXINE GILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT		TITLE: POLICY COORDINATOR	
ADDRESS: 725 KINGSLAND AVE, ST. 100			
CITY: UNIVERSITY CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63130
EMAIL: mgill@moenvironment.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 2:06 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

March 11, 2026

Chairman Ben Keathley
 House General Laws Committee
 MO House of Representatives
 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 112
 Jefferson City MO 65101

Dear Chairman Keathley and Members of the Committee,

Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) is a statewide, advocacy nonprofit organization that works to empower Missourians to protect their environment and health. We urge the committee to support HB 2844, which would prohibit the use of paraquat, a highly toxic herbicide.

We have known about Paraquat’s extreme toxicity since it was first introduced in 1962 under the brand name Gramoxone. One small accidental ingestion can be fatal, and there is no antidote. In recent years, a growing body of research has raised serious concerns about long-term neurodegenerative impacts from repeated exposure, in particular the onset of Parkinson’s disease.

Top researchers now believe that toxic chemicals are the primary cause of most of the more than 90,000 newly diagnosed Parkinson’s cases each year, with the bulk of those traceable to just two chemicals, one of which being paraquat. Studies have shown that people living or working within 500 meters of paraquat application more than double their odds of developing Parkinson’s. Since this connection was discovered, nearly 6,500 legal cases have been filed in East St. Louis against both Syngenta, the producer of paraquat, and Chevron, which distributed paraquat until the mid-1980s.

Internal corporate documents suggest that Syngenta has been aware of the risks of paraquat for decades. Documents dating back to the 1950s show that internal Syngenta studies found high doses of its paraquat caused “weakness and incoordination” in rabbits. A few decades later, in 1985, a company memo reported a scientific article showing an “extraordinarily high correlation was found between levels of pesticide use and Parkinson’s cases.” Despite these warning signs, production and distribution continued without meaningful warnings to the public.

Because of these concerns, Paraquat has been banned in 70 nations, including all European Union

nations and China. The EPA has banned certain uses, including applications on golf courses, but it has declined to enforce a total ban. If Paraquat is too dangerous for golfers, it is certainly too dangerous for farm workers and rural Americans that face the highest exposure. In 2024, forty-six members of Congress recognized this risk and formally called on the EPA to ban paraquat to protect public health. That request has so far gone unanswered.

Missouri has the opportunity to protect the health of its residents, agricultural workers, and rural communities. House Bill 2844 would take a necessary step toward preventing exposure to a chemical that is both acutely toxic and increasingly linked to long-term neurological harm. We urge you to put your constituents' health first and vote yes on HB 2844.

Sincerely,

Maxine Gill
Policy Coordinator
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
mgill@moenvironment.org
(314) 727-0600



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL DREYER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 11:19 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ALAYNA FORCK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4181	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 3118 EMERALD LANE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. A.C. "HONEST ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 1535			
CITY: O'FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-893-4241	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI PORK ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: POB 156			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: CASEY WASSER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-251-9809
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SOY ASSOCIATION		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: MO
EMAIL:		ZIP:
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: FRANK PLESCIA		PHONE NUMBER: 202-296-1585	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CROP LIFE AMERICA		TITLE: DIRECTOR, STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS	
ADDRESS: 4201 WILSON BLVD., #700			
CITY: ARLINGTON		STATE: VA	ZIP: 22203
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: JOSEPH BRADLEY THIELEMIER		PHONE NUMBER: 573-301-5853
REPRESENTING: COTTON PRODUCERS OF MISSOURI		TITLE:
ADDRESS: 2506 STONE RIDGE DR		
CITY: POPLAR BLUFF		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63901
EMAIL: bradthielemier@jbtconsultinggroup.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 6:14 PM

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Cotton producers of Missouri oppose this bill. These chemicals are a valuable tool for agriculture production in Missouri.

I apologize for not being there in person, as I have to be out of town for a meeting in the bootheel. I would be happy to visit with the committee or answer any questions at a later date.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: MARK FIEGENBAUM		PHONE NUMBER: 573-690-8580	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FARM BUREAU		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 701 S COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:00 AM	

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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:33 PM	

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HB 2844 proposes a statewide prohibition on the use, distribution, and handling of herbicides containing paraquat beginning January 1, 2027, with limited exceptions for research purposes authorized by the Department of Agriculture.

While protecting public health and environmental safety are legitimate state interests, the structure of HB 2844 raises several concerns regarding statutory clarity, regulatory delegation, and potential conflicts with federal pesticide regulatory frameworks.

First, the bill establishes a broad prohibition on “use,” defined to include application, distribution, sale, or handling of paraquat within the state.

This definition may create enforcement ambiguity regarding possession, transport, storage, or disposal of existing inventories of federally registered pesticide products.

Clarification regarding treatment of existing stocks and lawful disposal procedures would reduce uncertainty for licensed applicators, agricultural retailers, and distributors operating under existing regulatory frameworks.

Second, the bill requires persons who use, distribute, or sell paraquat to submit detailed reports to the Department of Agriculture regarding quantities used, geographic locations of use, and crop applications. The statute further requires publication of statewide usage reports by county and crop type. While data transparency may support research objectives, the bill does not clearly address safeguards for confidential business information or proprietary agricultural practices. When agricultural reporting requirements are imposed, legislatures often include confidentiality protections to prevent disclosure of sensitive operational data.

Third, the bill grants the Department of Agriculture broad rulemaking authority to determine enforcement mechanisms, reporting requirements, and research exemptions.

However, the statute provides limited statutory standards governing the scope of these rules.

Where statutes impose statewide prohibitions affecting regulated industries, clearer legislative guidance regarding enforcement structure and reporting scope helps avoid open-ended regulatory interpretation.

Fourth, the bill contains a nonseverability clause linking the statute's rulemaking authority to legislative rule-review provisions under Chapter 536, RSMo. If those legislative oversight powers were ever found unconstitutional, the bill would render the agency's rulemaking authority void.

This structure introduces legal uncertainty by tying the implementation of an environmental regulatory statute to potential future litigation regarding administrative rule-review powers.

Finally, legislators may wish to consider the interaction between state pesticide prohibitions and federal pesticide regulation under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). While states retain authority to regulate pesticide use more restrictively than federal standards, careful drafting is required to ensure state enforcement provisions operate consistently within the federal regulatory framework.

For these reasons, clarification regarding enforcement scope, reporting confidentiality, rulemaking limitations, and the nonseverability clause would improve the legal durability and administrative clarity of HB 2844.

Members of the General Assembly are respectfully placed on notice that unresolved statutory ambiguity in these areas may create regulatory uncertainty and increase the likelihood of administrative or statutory litigation following enactment.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TONY BENZ		PHONE NUMBER: 573-301-2747	
REPRESENTING: MO-AG		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/11/2026 12:00 AM	
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