



*Iowa House of Representatives*

March 26, 2021

To: State Rep. Holly Brink, Chair  
House Government Oversight Committee

State Rep. Ruth Ann Gaines, Ranking Member  
House Government Oversight Committee

From: State Rep. Chuck Isenhart  
Member, House Government Oversight Committee

About: Oversight of Pesticide Bureau  
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Dear Rep. Brink:

I urge you to convene the House Government Oversight Committee to consider the incidence, prevalence and significance of pesticide use and pesticide drift in Iowa, including the performance of the Pesticide Bureau with respect to current issues and enforcement of state laws and regulations.

Pesticide spray drift is the movement of pesticide dust or droplets through the air at the time of application or soon after, to any site other than the area intended. Avoiding all off-site movement is currently the responsibility of the applicator. The Pesticide Bureau within the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is responsible for responding to complaints and helping protect citizens and other farm operators from accidental or intentional misuse of the products.

The improper application of pesticides, especially aerial application, can have serious consequences for human health, neighboring crop fields, natural vegetation and wildlife.

I have received increasing numbers of reports of pesticide drift in Iowa, particularly since the federal Environmental Protection Agency registered several formulations of Dicamba for in-season use on soybean crops genetically engineered to tolerate it. We are concerned about timely investigation of complaints and appropriate responses to founded complaints.

I encourage the Oversight Committee to recommend whether statutory changes and/or additional resources are needed to address the growing problem of pesticide drift.

I thank you for your timely response to this request.