



February 29, 2024

Chair
Aric Putnam
Agriculture, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
3215 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Putnam and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) supports S.F. 4070 (Sen. McEwen) to have the Commercial Pesticide Applicator License Test available in Spanish.

Thanks to our last community survey assessing current needs in the Latino community, we learned about the continuous need that access to resources and information in various sectors (businesses, mentorships, educational opportunities, health care, etc.), is also provided in Spanish.

Our labor force in Minnesota will continue to come from immigrant communities (domestic migration will not suffice), and many will still require to be trained and tested in their native language. In the case of applying pesticides, this is not only economically sound, but it is especially an issue of safety and protection. One way to protect and incentivize potential workers in this area, is to have the test available in Spanish.

We hear concerns that pesticide labels are not translated into Spanish, but this should not be an impediment to pass this bill. For example, the Driver's Licenses test is provided in Spanish, while the road signs are in English. The Cosmetology License test is also available in Spanish, and the labels of chemicals that estheticians use are usually in English. Performing these activities safely (either driving or providing hair care services) works because the knowledge comes from the proper training, and not the labels.

The Council is in support to reduce barriers and secure more access to job opportunities in a safe way. We have no doubt that these kinds of proactive actions will result in positive returns on investments for the state.

We respectfully advise that you vote yes on this bill.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Rosa Tock
Executive Director
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