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## LATE TESTIMONY

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before the

**House Committee on Finance**

**HB 2503 HD1 Relating to the Environment**

**February 18, 2010**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

I am Janet Ashman, speaking on behalf of the various crop input interests that contribute to the Department of Agriculture pesticide use revolving fund through pesticide licensing and registration fees.

The industry strongly supports the work of the Pesticide Branch and recognizes that because of the state's budget deficit, staffing within the branch has been negatively affected.

Because of this, the industry supports the temporary use of the fund, which was meant to benefit the public by providing training and education, to instead pay for other pesticide branch personnel costs. However, because adequate training and educational outreach is critical to proper pesticide use and regulatory compliance, funding should not be permanently diverted away from those efforts.

We believe that the insertion of a sunset clause to ensure that the fund is used as it was intended would be appropriate. Additionally, we believe that section 1 of the bill is unnecessary for the purposes of the bill and should be deleted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.