

Joe Valente

As a farmer, I have long depended on a science-based pesticide policy in this state. I take seriously our responsibilities to use crop protection materials with strict regulatory oversight of DPR, and that is why I engage in this practice regularly through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It is unfortunate that food prices continue to rise with no end in sight.

Additionally, with economic pressures hurting many families today, we are once again faced with government hurdles related to this SPM strategic plan that will drive small family farms out of business and only make it more difficult to find safe and affordable food. I believe current pest management practices are in fact healthy, protective, and sustainable and that is why we are the most productive agricultural area in the world.

I oppose the SPM plan as written in the draft strategic plan.