

Andrea Daggett
Bar Harbor
LD 356

My name is Andrea Daggett and I am in support of LD 356: An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications. This past summer I became increasingly aware of the effects of pesticide usage without notice. During the summer I work on a flower farm and this past season I noticed the neighbors field that was once full of lush green grass turned into dead yellow grass within a week or two. I asked my boss about it and she explained the property nearby had used pesticides and the wind had carried the chemicals to our neighbors field and damaged all his vegetation. This substantial amount of damage made me wonder and worry.

For the most part our flowers looked visually unaffected, however in our common sunflower field that was closest to the damaged property I noticed something. The leaves on these flowers were beginning to curl and twist, I noticed this more and more as the weeks went by, at the end of the season the leaves and some flower heads looked burnt, like someone lit them on fire. These symptoms are common among pesticide poisoning in sunflowers. I was nervous especially when it came to the small vegetable garden that I ate out of every week, wondering if the water runoff was contaminating my fresh food with harmful chemicals. It was anxiety-inducing to be on the other side of a thin tree line from a property that had been ruined entirely by someone else's choice to use pesticides. If the wind that day had only blown harder or the treeline wasn't there to shield us our crops for an entire season could have been wiped out.

I believe that legislation like this bill is crucial for the health and respect of vegetation and human beings. It is important that the use of pesticides is informed to the owners of neighboring properties for various reasons like preparing and covering plants that may be harmed by pesticides. I fear for the health of organic vegetation and human beings without the mandation of transparent pesticide use, so I urge you to vote in favor of LD 356 to give neighboring owners ample time to prepare for the potential detrimental effects of pesticides.