

Kerry Read
South Paris
LD 1323

Senator Rachel Talbot Ross, Representative Bill Pluecker and members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee,

My name is Kerry Read and I live in South Paris. I am writing today, in support of LD 1323, as a mother, grandmother, concerned citizen and member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network, MUUSAN.

My care and concern for my grandchild; indeed, all of our grandchildren, compels me to speak out against the life threatening use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides.

Science tells us that the use of Neonicotinoids is responsible for mass pollinator declines which threaten our food system and farmers.

Just one teaspoon of neonic pesticide can kill 1.25 billion honeybees. More than 90 percent of neonicotinoids applied as treatments to plants and seeds ultimately contaminate surrounding soils, plants, air, and water. These pesticides can make matters worse for farmers by killing agricultural pests and their natural predators.

My faith tells me that we are all part of the interdependent web of life. We, as humans depend on the health of the whole system for our species' survival. We are responsible for the damages that have been done to other species and morally obligated to do no more harm.

For a healthier future for all, I ask you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1323.