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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST LD 356

*An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications
(Emergency)*

March 6, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, I am Alex Peacock, Director of the Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). I am here today to speak neither for nor against LD 356, "*An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications.*"

First, it is important to note that the BPC strongly endorses Maine citizens' right to be notified about pesticide applications near their homes and businesses. Secondly, for nearly 30 years, Rule Chapter 28 has created among the most comprehensive notification regimes in the United States. Notably, Chapter 28 does this while striking an important balance between the rights of pesticide applicators and neighboring property owners. The sponsor alluded to this important balance in draft testimony he shared with the BPC yesterday.

The amendment before you is a Resolve directing the BPC to review and amend *Chapter 28: Notification Provisions for Outdoor Pesticide Applications*. We have no objection to reviewing Chapter 28 or any regulatory aspect of our work to achieve better outcomes. However, we are hesitant to commit to the costly and intensive process of major substantive rulemaking when we have not yet had an opportunity to determine that a solution would be best achieved by amending Chapter 28.

We have appreciated the dialogue we have had with the sponsor over the last week and would welcome the opportunity to continue that dialogue before committing the BPC to a single course of action.

After hearing more from the sponsor and others testifying on this bill today, we are eager to continue discussing the best way forward. Thank you for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.

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