



TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

LD 356 An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications

Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and honorable members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

My name is Julie Ann Smith, and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Farmers Coalition, a collective of progressive farmers deeply committed to ensuring the sustainable growth and protection of Maine's vital farming industry.

We would like to express our gratitude to Senator Bennett for proposing a bill that addresses concerns about the use of bait stations. Farmers adhere to recommended integrated pest management practices to select the most effective methods for controlling invasive and harmful pests, which may include using pesticides when other measures fail. The timely application of crop protection pesticides is critical and often must be executed immediately to effectively combat infestations of food crops. Employing pesticides tested for safety and registered with Maine's Board of Pesticides Control is essential for producing healthy food and supporting strong communities.

We voiced our concerns regarding the challenges farmers would encounter when trying to notify their neighbors at least seven days in advance about their plans to apply pesticides. In response, Senator Bennett worked with us and other stakeholders to develop a solution. We are grateful for the Senator's efforts in drafting the proposed amendment and wholeheartedly support leveraging the extensive knowledge and expertise of the Board of Pesticides Control to offer guidance and recommend a practical solution.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important opportunity for Maine. I would be happy to answer any questions.

