



**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO
LD 1323 An Act to Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of
Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds**

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 strongly oppose the proposed legislation. Our confidence in the Maine Board of Pesticide Control, led by its director and toxicologist, is unwavering. These professionals rigorously evaluate and approve pesticides, ensuring that only those that have passed comprehensive environmental and human health impact studies prior to receiving EPA approval can be registered for use in Maine. Moreover, Maine's Board of Pesticide Control acts as a vital safeguard, guaranteeing that only appropriate and safe pesticides are registered for use in our state.

Maine's farmers are proud to be fully certified in the responsible use of pesticides, which are vital tools for successful agriculture. Pesticides can be expensive, but their role in ensuring healthy crops and sustainable farming cannot be overstated. Given that many Maine farms operate on tight budgets, it is crucial that we are afforded the same access to modern technologies and resources as our counterparts in other states and neighboring countries. This access is not just beneficial; it's essential for our farmers to thrive and contribute to the local economy.

It's crucial that we trust our established systems and experts dedicated to safeguarding our community and environment and not politicize pesticides and other agricultural tools. We urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass, as this legislation poses a serious risk to the viability of Maine farms. Thank you for your service to Maine's farmers and I would be happy to answer any questions.

