

Good Morning. My name is Bruce Flewelling. Thank you for this opportunity to speak today. I grow potatoes for processing markets with my two sons in Easton, Maine. I am president of The Agricultural Bargaining Council (ABC) which negotiates potato contracts worth \$95 million dollars to the Maine economy. I am asking you not to support LD1323. Potatoes are the number one agricultural crop in Maine, contributing substantially to our economy. Neonics are an important integrated pest management tool in potato production. A ban on the neonic class of chemistry would be devastating for our potato industry. These modern chemistries have very low use rates compared to older chemistries that have higher use rates. Without these modern chemistries we would need to rely on higher rates at more frequency to control the Colorado Potato Beetle which can destroy our potato crop. I appreciate the agricultural committee listening to my concerns today. Thank you!