

Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
c/o Clerk Cheryl McGowan
Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Cross Building, Room 214, 287-1312
Augusta, ME 04333

March 3, 2021

Dear, Senator Jim Dill, Chair & The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee—

I am writing to you today to declare that **I, Megan Westerlind (nee Rynne)**—a resident of Nobleboro, Maine, **support and approve of the passage of LD 316** – An Act To Prohibit the Use of Chlorpyrifos sponsored by Representative Vicki Doudera.

I moved to Maine this Winter with my husband. I have long dreamed of moving back to New England—being from Boston but having lived in DC and WV for the last 8 years, I was thrilled to finally return to the place where my Great Great Grandfather, Frederic Loring Williams is from and boarded lumber ships as an adolescent in Bath, Maine. Maine is quintessentially New England but with a unique quirky salt of the earth and sea flare. It feels like home. I want to grow food here, raise children, and as a children’s yoga teacher and outdoor educator, I want to grow my business of providing enrichment programming for folks and families in their early childhood years. It feels dangerous to do this in a place that does not ban the use of poisons such as Chlorpyrifos; I want Maine, my new home, my ancestors’ old home, to be a place ahead of the curve- actively reverent of the sea and earth and Her people. Banning the use of Chlorpyrifos entirely—both residentially and commercially, is the way forward, the way to esteemed leadership and idyllic trendsetting.

As MOFGA notes: “Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate insecticide used for many food crops, mosquito control and turf management. It has been at the forefront of concern about synthetic pesticides for decades due to its neurotoxicity, especially among young children. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned chlorpyrifos for residential use in 2001 recognizing that children exposed to the substance exhibited impaired cognitive function, developmental delays, lower IQs, attention deficit disorder, and other disorders of the neurosystem. Chlorpyrifos also was linked to adverse impacts on the reproductive system, renal, hepatic, and endocrine systems. In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its intention to ban all uses of chlorpyrifos. In 2017, EPA reversed the order to ban the chemical and re-registered it for sale and use in agriculture in the U.S. Recognizing the dire impact that chlorpyrifos has on children, several states, including Hawaii, New York, Maryland and California have since passed laws to restrict or ban the pesticide. LD 316, would prohibit the use of chlorpyrifos in Maine beginning in 2022, allowing limited exemptions for one year. MOFGA supports a full ban on the sale and use of chlorpyrifos.”

Please make this state a place where we and the children and animals and plants are well looked after.

Respectfully,

Megan B. Rynne

Resident of Nobleboro, Maine

M.A. Education, Shepherd University

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B.A. Sustainable Development and International Relations, UMass Amherst