



Portland Country Club

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To: Senator Jim Dill and Representative Maggie O'Neil
Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

This testimony is written in **opposition** to LD1159 and LD1158 that would ban all pesticide use for non-agricultural issues.

I am the Golf Course Superintendent at Portland Country Club in Falmouth Maine and I feel that I can speak for most superintendents and golf courses throughout the state. This bill would certainly put many golf courses out of business. The ability to attract golfers to a course and retain a solid membership is highly dependent on the conditions you can provide.

Golf course maintenance is a highly specialized field comprised of well-trained and educated individuals. Our profession requires many grasses to be cut at very short heights. These conditions require the responsible use of some pesticides to maintain the playing surfaces that attract daily fees and members to Maine's golf courses.

Golf Course Superintendents are stewards of the land and the environmental impact we have is always in the forefront of our minds. Here at Portland Country Club we have been certified as an Audubon Sanctuary for golf courses since 1997. In order to be certified by Audubon International we are expected to maintain best management practices in categories that include:

- Environmental Planning, Training and Communication
- Wildlife and Habitat Management
- Chemical Use Reduction and Safety
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality Management
- Outreach and Education

The majority of the people in my field get involved because they value the environment, love the great game of golf and enjoy working with Mother Nature. Please do not take away the tools that allow us to do our jobs. Golf courses are wonderful green spaces. Think first, spray last. Thank you.

J.B. Christie
Golf Course Superintendent
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