



April 12, 2021

**Subject:** Written testimony submitted in opposition to LD 1159 “An Act To Amend the Membership Requirements of the Board of Pesticides Control ”

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry,

Mainely Grass is a Maine-based, family-owned Lawn Care and Pest Control company with a 20-year history working in the state of Maine. Over half of our business is in Maine and a number of our employees—myself included—call Maine home. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to LD 1159.

The membership requirements of the Board of Pesticides Control as currently written ensures that each member meets a high standard of “practical experience and knowledge” relating to the specific expertise they bring to the Board. In the two cases where it does not, representatives from the medical community and a commercial applicator, the field in which these members work serve by proxy as high bars of practical experience and knowledge.

The proposed amendment to the membership requirements pertaining to the 2 public members downgrades the previous standard of “practical experience and knowledge” in favor of a much looser standard of “demonstrated interest”. This change lowers the standard for which appointment is warranted for no reason. The Board of Pesticides Control requires extreme technical competency in order to serve its purpose. We should not be lowering admissions standards for positions on this board.

I encourage the committee to vote “ought not to pass” on LD 1159.

Sincerely,

Palmer Higgins

CEO, Mainely Grass

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