

Jo Myers
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Members of the Agriculture, Conservancy and Forestry Committee:

I urge you to support LD 1159 which would reinstate an important balance to the Board of Pesticides Control. LD 1159 would require that the Board of Pesticide Control have two public members with a demonstrated interest in environmental protections. The general public looks to government to protect its citizens from harmful pesticides. This is abundantly clear given how many communities in Maine have passed local ordinances which prohibit the use of pesticides. The variation in these local ordinances demonstrates how citizens are carefully considering how they want their communities to manage local pesticide use.

The public must be assured that boards and commissions established by government have integrity and are structured to serve Maine's citizens in the citizen's best interest. I would urge you to consider requiring that the two public members have no conflict of interest by adopting the existing COI definition of which is now applied to 49 state boards.

Please also consider to require that the Board of Pesticide Control university be an agronomist or entomologist.

Thank you for considering this testimony.