



April 13, 2021

Chairman James Dill
Madam Chair Margaret O'Neil
Joint Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Cross Building, Room 214
Maine State House
Augusta, ME 04330

**Re: NEPMA Supports Maintaining an Expert in Sustainable Pest Management on the
Maine Board of Pesticides Control**

Dear Chairman Dill, Madam Chair O'Neil, and Members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry:

The New England Pest Management Association (NEPMA), the trade group for structural pest management companies or "pest control" companies in Maine, appreciates the opportunity to share our thoughts on LD 1159, as we want to be constructive in the policymaking process.

LD 1159, as written, would remove an appointed member category of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) that includes a member with: "practical experience and knowledge of methods of sustainable management of indoor or outdoor pests." NEPMA believes an individual with this level of expertise is an irreplaceable component on the BPC. Removing sustainable pest management experts will not help achieve the goal of sustainable pest management.

NEPMA believes that structural pest management companies certified in GreenPro or participating in the EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) should be required to fill one of the seats proposed in LD 1159, in order to maintain an expert in sustainable pest management on the BPC. Potential BPC members participating in these two programs would have more than a sufficient degree of understanding of sustainable pest management.

GreenPro Principles are as follows:

"GreenPro certified services minimize pesticide exposure to humans, nontarget animals, and the environment by:

- Focusing on integrated pest management strategies such as habitat modification, exclusion, removal of food and water sources, sanitation, and making repairs.
- Providing and documenting thorough pest inspection and monitoring services, as well as follow-up to ensure efficacy.
- Regularly communicating with clients about pest infestations, conducive conditions, and ways to prevent pests.

- Requiring GreenPro training for all company employees who sell or perform GreenPro service.

Services that include any of the following **will not** be certified as GreenPro:

- Preventive pesticide applications that are based solely on the calendar.*
- Routine, high-volume pesticide applications without justification.
- Indoor pesticide applications without justification.
- Rodenticides placed in a manner in which they are accessible to children and nontarget animals.

*Preventive applications linked to seasonality or times of year are permissible if they are clearly linked to the biology of the pest, and regional- or site-specific data on pest pressure and patterns of infestation.”¹

Overview of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program:

“Established in 1994, the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) is an EPA partnership program that works with the nation's pesticide-user community to promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. PESP is guided by the principle that partnership programs complement the standards and decisions established by regulatory and registration actions. The informed actions of pesticide users can further reduce the risks from pests and pesticides by playing a major role in ensuring human health and environmental safety.”²

In conclusion, if the State of Maine believes that sustainable pest management is important then we strongly urge the ACF Committee to maintain an expert in sustainable pest management on the Maine Board of Pesticides Control. NEPMA recommends requiring a member certified in GreenPro or participating in the EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ted Brayton
Past President
New England Pest Management Association

Mike Peaslee
Maine State Policy Affairs Representative
New England Pest Management Association

¹ “The Credentials: GreenPro,” *QualityPro*, <https://www.npmaqualitypro.org/available-credentials/greenpro/>

² “Overview of the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program,” *EPA*, <https://www.epa.gov/pesp/overview-pesticide-environmental-stewardship-program>