

Jo Myers
Waldoboro

Members of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee:

My name is Jo Ann Myers , co-operator of a 180 farm in Waldoboro. About 100 acres of our farm is in forest. We have completed some logging in our forest. My brother is a full-time independent logger in western Massachusetts. My father's first job was in logging.

I urge you to vote "out not to pass" on LD 1407.

LD 1407 would essentially prohibit local pesticide control options in Maine. Over 40 Maine communities have enacted local pesticide control options including some communities represented by members of this committee.

In recent legislatures, ALEC has made several attempts to have our state legislature enact legislation which would end local pesticide control options in Maine, and these bills have tucked into bill language a ban on local option. Transparency would make sure all of us Maine voters have a chance to present comment. Obfuscation is designed to hide the real intent of the bill.

Maine is a strong home rule state, assured by a 1969 constitutional amendment which provides for broad powers to towns and municipalities in establishing local ordinances. LD 1407 is an insult to Maine's strong home rule tradition.

Local pesticide control ordinances are citizen initiated, and these proposed ordinances go through a public process in which local citizens, businesses, civic organizations, and interested parties from other communities provide comment. Typically, the proposed ordinance is revised based on comments and revisions may add or remove the ordinance provision. Sometimes the proposed ordinance is abandoned altogether. This very local process, in full view of local voters, is democratic and a process Maine citizens expect and rely on.

I urge you to reject LD 1407.