

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in response to the proposed LD 1599 in particular Sec 2 22 MRSA 1471-C. I am a pesticide distributor and have been for almost 20 years. I take my profession very seriously and understand the impact that I can have working with golf course superintendents throughout the state. I want to make sure that everyone on this committee understands that there are no bigger stewards of the environment than golf course superintendents. They manage open green spaces where people and communities can come together and enjoy outdoor recreation together. They also manage land where wildlife of all species, birds, mammals and insects to name a few, live harmoniously together. And they take that part of their job very seriously. I as a distributor take that job just as seriously when we work together. These facts are the foundation of why we do this job. We love the environment and open green spaces. We go about our daily jobs to steward the land so that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy those spaces.

Pesticide dealers and licensed applicators understand the importance of what they do. We have all passed the states tests and continue to obtain recertification credits to maintain our licenses. The company I work for in fact puts on 2-3 seminars per year for our clients to get the most up to date information about new products coming to the market as well as products that have been on the market. These seminars are approved by all states in new England and are given accredited pesticide credits for applicators and dealers. Furthermore, a representative from the Maine Board of Pesticides Control gives a presentation annually at the Maine Turf Conference to update dealers and golf course superintendents on regulation updates and other areas of importance, like pollinator protection for instance.

We submit our pesticide sales by the end of the year for the state to review. The state already has all of the information this legislation asks for. They have our names, company names, emails, phone numbers, addresses, license numbers, Brand names of products sold as well as active ingredients. To make new legislation that says we need to report on a monthly basis is not only unnecessary but wasteful as well. It will clog up the state EPA with an abundance of paperwork on a monthly basis. The state reviews every pesticide dealer report and determines if anything is wrong with it and takes appropriate action. To do that on a monthly basis would be unnecessary. So, the question I would ask is

“Why”? Why make this change if nothing is wrong with the current situation? Who and how will this legislation help out the state? Where will this information be posted and who has access to it? There has never been anything the state has brought up to dealers or the Golf Course Superintendents Association that needs to be fixed to my knowledge. Until there is some valid reason to make such a significant change the system should be left as it is, in proper working condition. Thank you for your consideration.

Mike DeForge, Tom Irwin Inc.