



May 4, 2021

Senator James Dill
Representative Maggie O’Neal
Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
State House
220 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

CHAIRMAN DILL, REPRESENTATIVE O’NEAL AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

ON BEHALF OF OUR EMPLOYEES AND CUSTOMERS WHO CALL THE PINE TREE STATE HOME, TRUGREEN IS IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO LD1599 AND URGES AN “OUGHT NOT TO PASS” VOTE.

THE EDUCATED, TRAINED, PROFESSIONAL LICENSED BY THE STATE ALREADY SHARES ANNUAL USAGE DATA WITH THE STATE. WE ARE EXTREMELY CAREFUL AND CONSCIOUS IN WHAT PRODUCTS WE USE, WHEN AND HOW WE APPLY THEM. OUTSIDE OF LABOR COSTS, CHEMICAL COSTS ARE AMONG OUR LARGEST SO WE HAVE NO FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO OVER APPLY OR MISAPPLY.

WE KEEP DETAILED RECORDS AND REMAIN SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY STATE INSPECTORS AT ANY TIME. THOSE WHO ABUSE THEIR LICENSE CAN BE FINED, LOSE THE ABILITY TO OPERATE IN THE STATE OR BE TURNED OVER TO THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE FOR CASES OF SERIOUS MISCONDUCT.

IF THE PURPOSE OF THIS BILL IS TO ENSURE THE STATE KNOWS WHAT PRODUCTS ARE BEING USED, IN WHAT AMOUNTS AND WHEN THEY ALREADY GET THAT INFORMATION FROM US, BUT AGAIN, WE ARE SUBJECT TO AUDIT AT ANY TIME THE STATE WISHES TO KNOW WHERE WE STAND WITH CHEMICAL USE.

IN ADDITION TO BEING UNNECESSARILY BURDENSOME TO AN INDUSTRY THAT ALREADY REPORTS CHEMICAL USE AND IS STILL SEEKING TO RECOVER FROM A PANDEMIC ECONOMY, OUR PRIMARY OBJECTION TO THIS BILL CONCERNS THE SAFETY OF OUR EMPLOYEES AND OUR CUSTOMERS.

THE BILL LANGUAGE IS VERY CLEAR ON COLLECTING INFORMATION ON THE PROFESSIONAL APPLICATOR AS WELL AS THE CUSTOMER’S ADDRESS. THE NAME, ADDRESS AND EMAIL OF EACH APPLICATOR, THE ADDRESS OF EACH CUSTOMER IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. IT IS NO ONE’S BUSINESS WHAT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ANYONE BUYS AND THIS CREATES ESSENTIALLY A TARGET LIST FOR EXTREME ANTI-PESTICIDE ORGANIZATIONS OR ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY DECIDE TO TAKEN UPON THEMSELVES TO TAKE SOME KIND OF ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO PROVIDE A PESTICIDE SERVICE OR THOS WHO EMPLOY THEM. *(“The board shall post the information received under subsections 2 and 3 on a publicly 28 accessible website maintained by the board.” – Line 27 on Page 2 of the bill.)*

THE PERSONAL INFORMATION MANDATED IN THIS BILL TO BE MADE PUBLIC IN ADVANCE OR AFTER THE FACT OF A SERVICE CALL IS AN OPEN INVITATION FOR THOSE WHO OPPOSE PESTICIDE USE TO HARRASS OUR EMPLOYEES AND OUR CUSTOMERS. THIS PRESENTS A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS AND UNNECESSARY RISK ON A SOMETIMES VERY EMOTIONAL TOPIC.

WE URGE THIS COMMITTEE TO NOT MOVE FORWARD BUT TO ENCOURAGE GREATER COLLABORATION AND OUTREACH AMONG LAWMAKERS WITH CONCERNS AND THE LICENSED PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND REASON ON ISSUES.

THANK YOU FOR HEARING OUR TESTIMONY.

JEFF FEDORCHAK

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