

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

My name is Jo Myers, farming in Waldoboro for over 20 years.

I urge your support and unanimous vote of LD 1599 which would establish a Maine Pesticide Sales and Use Registry.

When Maine enacted Title 22, Chapter 258, 1471-X, over two decades ago, it stated clearly that Maine would develop a number of strategies to minimize our state's reliance on pesticides.

However, Maine has not systematically and comprehensively collected the data which would affirm that we are reducing our reliance on pesticides.

It is the Board of Pesticide Control which has responsibility for collecting this data. As a citizen, I believe in government, I believe that staff members of state government are committed to public service, follow the laws and regulations of the state, and are professionals who work to provide Maine citizens with exemplary public service. As a citizen, I believe that commissions and boards established to serve the public should be required to impartially do the work they are established to do.

In an era when too many citizens distrust government, what seem as small steps are essential to restore faith in government. Part of trust in government is making sure that boards and commissions are doing the work they have been asked to do.

LD 1599 lays out a clear requirement that pesticide sales and use registry will be done to meet Maine law.

LD 1599 will require that Maine collect pesticide sales and use data, and provide the data needed to make sure Title 22, Chapter 258, 1471-X is implemented as intended. I look forward to learning how Maine is doing in reducing our reliance on pesticides, how and when we have to use pesticides due to unusual circumstances, how all of us (include our farm) meet the requirements of the law, what staff of the Board of Pesticides Control consider in terms of science based technology and IPM , and very important, how the staff of the Board of Pesticides Control provide education to the public about pesticide use. The public needs to know what the state is doing to reduce reliance on pesticides and the general public also needs to know how they are contributing to pesticide use, and what they can do to reduce their use of pesticides.

Thanks you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill.