

## Testimony



### **Maine Landscape and Nursery Association, MELNA**

**PO Box 4666**

**Augusta, ME 04330**

### **OPPOSED TO LD 1599**

#### **“An Act to Establish a Maine Pesticide Sales and Use Registry”**

Senator Dill, Representative O’Neil and Members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry my name is Jake Pierson, past-president of MELNA. Our Statewide association includes Landscapers, Garden Centers, Greenhouses, Nurseries and others. Some of our members are organic practitioners, while others follow the State of Maine’s policy of Integrated Pest Management, IPM. We all care about the environment and stay informed by updates from Universities, DACF and BPC.

We are opposed to LD 1599 for the many reasons and here are three of them:

- The BPC has licensed categories of Commercial applicator (Master and Operator), Private, AG Basic and Distributor. There is no category of Certified.
- UMaine, Extension, DACF and BPC have worked for decades on this topic. Their expertise does not appear to have been involved anywhere with this bill.
- We question why the burden is placed on licensed applicators whereas retail consumers can purchase and use these products.

The final point we would like to make is that MELNA understands the concern with the overuse and misuse of pesticides. Education, more robust than in previous years, needs to be the priority.

Thank you.

Jake Pierson

MELNA and Pierson Nurseries

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The attached are just some of our members who oppose LD 1599.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Town</b>
Jake Pierson	Pierson's Nursery	Dayton
Harvey Sprague	Sprague's Nursery and Garden Center	Bangor
Tom Estabrook	Estabrook's	Yarmouth and Kennebunk
Phil Roberts	Broadway Gardens	South Portland and Westbrook
Lee Skillin	Skillin's Greenhouse	Falmouth, Brunswick, Cumberland
Scott Longfellow	Longfellow's	Manchester
Jesse O'Brien	Down East Turf Farm	Kennebunk
Jeff O'Donal	O'Donals Nursery	Gorham, Fryeberg
Hammon Buck	Plants Unlimited	Rockport
Mark Pentergast	Salmon Falls Nursery	Berwick
Doug Albert	Maine Turf Company	Fryeberg

