

Philip Roberts  
Cape Elizabeth

Greetings to Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and the rest of the esteemed A.C.F. Committee Members : I, Philip Roberts owner and head grower of Broaday Gardens in South Portland, Westbrook and Saco Maine and member of the MELNA Executive Board strongly oppose LD 1599 especially provisions involving the pre registration of potential use of pesticides before application. This legislation will set back all the good work of reduced pesticide application by social responsible growers throughout the state! It is imperative that growers of all sizes both organic and traditional be able to use initial preventive drenches and low volume applications as needed to anticipate both pest and especially disease issues; as examples of this -- during extremely wet and cold weather periods an experienced grower/applicator cant wait to allow a disease or pest to rule the day : He or She can see disease issues such botrytis, pythium, phytophthora, or powdery mildew on the horizon, or foresee a specific pest known to target agricultural crops as weather and environmental conditions are ripe for it. A farmer or Ornamental grower can loose whole crops over night by waiting for some sort of governmental approval causing catastrophic financial loss and/or be forced to use extremely high amounts of chemicals due to the delay and still loose the crop and cause additional environmental problems . What you are telling the applicator to do is basically the same as telling Tom Brady you have to tell the defense what play you are going to run before the snap! Furthermore, our State Board of Pesticide Control and the Federal Dept of Agriculture already require us to follow and extensive list of guidelines and keep comprehensive records and be fully licensed, trained and periodically recertified through seminar and classroom work. This legislation appears to be just more bureaucracy and over reach! Thank you for your consideration