

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, I am writing in opposition of LD 1599.

I oppose this legislation for many reasons, but the most troubling is section 3, that requires notification to the Board of Pesticides Control by a licensed applicator of an application at least one day prior to the application. How many other industries which require state certification also require such notification by the certified professional? My wife is a registered nurse and I know she doesn't need to notify the Board of Nursing before performing her various duties. The state has already acknowledged her expertise in the matter. The same goes for this situation. Why is the licensed professional being singled out? Furthermore, the Board of Pesticides Control already receives annual reporting from applicators. LD 1599 looks to add personal information to the reporting then make said personal information public. Why?

As a Class A golf course superintendent, I take great pride in managing the land the right way. IPM and Best Management Practices are central to what I do as a steward of the environment. LD1599 would handicap golf course superintends ability to respond to pest outbreaks and provide the the playing surfaces that Maine golfers expect. Let me give you an example. Dollar Spot is the most prevalent and destructive turf disease in the world. It is common in Maine. Under the right environmental conditions it can completely destroy golf greens, tees, and fairways in a single night. If this bill were to pass, I would not be able to respond to a dollar spot outbreak for 24 hours (since I would need to notify the BOPC one day in advance) and potentially let this completely treatable turf disease destroy our playing surfaces.

I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD1599.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Searle
Class A Golf Course Superintendent
Kennebunkport, Maine

<https://www.gcsaa.org/docs/default-source/environment/maine-bmps.pdf>