



Defend municipal rights to limit the use of pesticides

Reject LD 1543: Protect “home rule” for reducing exposure to harmful pesticides

Maine communities should be able to decide for themselves whether to limit the use of harmful pesticides in order to protect the public’s health

Pesticides are inherently dangerous, yet there has been a dramatic increase in their use

- Maine has had a 700% increase in the use of pesticides by homeowners and lawn & tree care companies over the past two decades.
- Pesticides have been linked to asthma, cancer, learning disabilities, birth defects, reproductive dysfunction, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, and liver damage. Children are especially sensitive to pesticide exposure.
- Pesticides also negatively impact wildlife and the environment. Aquatic animals are extremely sensitive to pesticide runoff.
- The U.S. Geological Survey reports that 33% of major aquifers and 50% of shallow wells contain one or more pesticides at detectable levels.



More and more municipalities are taking action to reduce pesticide use and exposure

- Maine has no meaningful pesticide spray buffer zones to protect communities from pesticide drift.
- 26 Maine towns and plantations from all over the state have passed local ordinances to protect their citizens from pesticides. The complete list is: Allagash, Amherst, Arrowsic, Brighton Plantation, Brunswick, Castine, Coplin Plantation, Cranberry Isles, Harpswell, Lebanon, Limerick, Limestone, Newburgh, New Gloucester, New Sweden, Ogunquit, Owl’s Head, Rangeley, Rockland, Southport, Standish, Sweden, Waterboro, Wayne, and Wells.
- Maine’s local ordinances vary widely in content and fit the unique needs of individual communities.
- Increased municipal interest in reducing pesticide use reflects the failure of state government to do so, even though Maine law states, “It is the policy of the State to work to find ways to use the minimum amount of pesticides needed to effectively control targeted pests in all areas of application”.

LD 1543 attacks “home rule”, prevents towns from taking steps to reduce citizen exposure to harmful pesticides, and requires the creation of costly new boards to oversee local ordinances

- LD 1543 asserts that existing municipal boards and governments are incapable of overseeing pesticide application.
- LD 1543 would require municipalities with existing pesticide ordinances and any municipalities developing new ordinances to create their own Boards of Pesticide Control, regardless of cost.
- LD 1543 is a one-size-fits-all approach that would not respect unique municipal circumstances and would retroactively invalidate existing ordinances unless municipalities comply with the bill.

Oppose LD 1543: Allow towns to protect their citizens from pesticide exposure

For more information, please contact Nick Bennett, (207) 430-0116 or nbennett@nrcm.org



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 31 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive

Acadia Center	Maine Lakes Society
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine People's Alliance
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Rivers
Conservation Law Foundation	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Audubon	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Wilderness Society
Maine Conservation Alliance	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Churches	Upstream
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	350 Maine
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	