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**From:** Lauchlin Titus  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2018 10:47 AM  
**To:** Gibbs, Ann <Ann.Gibbs@maine.gov>  
**Subject:** BPC Meeting

Hi Ann,

I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the BPC meeting next Friday.

I see one of the agenda items is to discuss LD 1823. I went to the public hearing and testified in favor of the bill. I have a couple of comments to make relative to that hearing and the bill. Please share with Board and Staff if and as you fell appropriate.

A former BPC staff member spent his three minutes of testimony time tearing down the Board of Pesticides Control. His allegations were taken very seriously by the State and Local Government Committee and they were going to send a letter to the Committee on ACF relative to that. I disagreed almost in whole with what the individual stated and if necessary I will write or speak in support of the Board of Pesticides Control .....both Board and Staff, as I felt both were bashed harshly. Clark Granger was present so can verify or deny my assessment of the situation.

With regard to the Bill itself, as we know it was voted out Ought Not to Pass and is probably doomed. For some reason, it became an issue of Home Rule trumps everything else. The bill, in my opinion, did not threaten Home Rule. I think the proposal is a good one and it needs to be discussed and crafted well ahead of time. As a Vassalboro Selectman, I was disappointed that Maine Municipal Association spoke in opposition to the Bill. I believe the Agricultural Community and other interested parties should have a discussion with MMA about this bill well in advance if this comes up next year (as was indicated may happen). Those speaking in favor (me included) were not well prepared in understanding the differences in pesticide restrictive ordinances in the 30 communities cited by many. I mentioned all of the above at AgCOM this week, so these thoughts are out there.

Lastly, some in support of the legislation kept quiet, knowing it was doomed to fail. It was expressed to me that agriculture use of pesticides is protected by "Right to Farm" and that it was felt to not be prudent to remind folks of this on an issue doomed to failure anyhow and with a lot of anti-pesticide use people present. While I don't personally agree with that strategy, I get it.

Regards,  
Lauchlin Titus