



August 23, 2021

State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Regulatory Implementation of L.D. 155, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control To Prohibit the Use of Certain Neonicotinoids for Outdoor Residential Use

Dear Director Patterson and Members of the Board of Pesticides Control,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the regulatory process to implement L.D. 155. We understand it is the preference of the people of Maine to prohibit application of certain neonicotinoid insecticides for outdoor use, primarily those purchased and applied to residential turf, lawns, and ornamental vegetation. We note that products containing dinotefuran, clothianidin, imidacloprid or thiamethoxam may remain registered for certain professional uses under the exemptions in L.D. 155, and these active ingredients continue to be registered for use on turf, lawns, and ornamental vegetation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

We believe using existing regulatory options will provide for an effective implementation of the product prohibitions impacting residential application of certain neonicotinoid insecticides in L.D. 155. We propose:

- Impacted registrants be notified by the Board of Pesticides Control that they should place impacted products registered in Maine in discontinuance registration status.
- Impacted products are subject to a two-year discontinuance beginning January 1, 2022, to provide ample time for registrant, distributor, retailer and consumer notification and education, and to clear existing inventory from the channels of trade.
- We also ask the Board of Pesticides Control to clarify that “preserving wood” applies to living trees as well as to wood inside and outside of structures.

During the discontinuance period we propose products continue to be available for sale and application to exhaust stocks currently on store shelves and in the channels of trade. This solution will also avoid the need for retailers and distributors to find disposal solutions, potentially for a large volume of products. We believe this is an appropriate and practical solution given the products remain registered for other uses in Maine and continue to be registered by U.S. EPA for consumer, professional and crop uses.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact us with questions or if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Provost', written in a cursive style.

Megan J. Provost
President
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