

From: Gugliotti Melissa USGR
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2018 6:23 PM
To: Pesticides <Pesticides@maine.gov>
Subject: South Portland Pesticide Ordinance

Dear Maine Board of Pesticides Control,

I am writing to you today to express my continued distress and concern over the recent pesticide ban that has gone into effect in South Portland. While I can appreciate the desire to cater to the vocal minority who supported this ban, I believe that the majority of Mainers – the hard-working responsible property owners, lawn care professionals, and golf course operators to name a few – are being seriously underrepresented. While a few outspoken individuals have expressed concern around pesticide use in the state and have made it their mission to get their agenda pushed through, most of us proud Maine tax payers are working tirelessly to earn a living and cannot afford to attend every local hearing or meeting. We deserve the right, just as much as anyone else, to make responsible decisions about our own lives and properties.

It is extremely frustrating that the state is allowing our freedom to choose how we protect our properties, pets and families to be taken away. Millions of dollars and countless man-hours are spent every year at both the state and federal levels to provide residents and professionals with a vetted selection of effective state approved and EPA registered products. All of these products should be available to us to provide the proper solution to any pest problem at the correct time.

I find it extremely aggravating and somewhat disappointing that someone should need to apply for a waiver to treat their own property. What this suggests to me is that there may be a lack of knowledge and understanding of how and why pesticide products are being used. It is the job of the Board of Pesticides Control and Department of Agriculture to communicate with residents and support understanding about pesticides and the board's role in their regulation and safe use.

Firstly, a waiver process acknowledges there is a real need for pesticides, but, someone else should be allowed to decide the value of my private property and what is and is not a harmful pest. Secondly, a waiver process does not allow me to protect my property preventatively. What that means is that when a problem does occur, it could very well require larger quantities of stronger and more costly pesticides to treat the problem. It also means that I must expose my family to harmful conditions, such as disease-carrying ticks, before anything can be done to mitigate a harmful situation.

I understand that, as human beings, we tend to fear the unfamiliar. I know very little about boating and quite honestly ocean going crafts scare the heck out of me, but I can still enjoy a trip with a knowing captain. Many

pesticides are derivatives of products that are used every day in the pharmaceutical industry and no one bats an eye at those products. Anything can be toxic at high thresholds, including every day substances such as coffee and chlorine.

I urge the Maine Board of Pesticides fulfill its remit and bring a balanced and common sense approach to educating residents and elected officials about the regulation and use of pesticides in our state. Educate and advocate for the quiet majority. Help everyone get on the same page of understanding what exactly we are talking about and what the ultimate goal is. Let's highlight all the resources and educational information already out there on the Board's website. If we are trying to protect Mainers and the environment, then let's not forget pesticides are important in those efforts. Simply banning all pesticides and allowing each town to make their own rules is counterproductive. There has got to be a better way forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Hyner Gugliotti
Kennebunk, ME

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