

August 25, 2021

Deven Morrill, Chair
Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Request from the Maine Association of Independent Schools supporting waiver of license requirement for use of powered equipment for application of disinfectants.

Dear Chair Morrill and members of the Board:

I am writing on behalf of the Maine Association of Independent Schools (MAIS), an association of preK-12 independent schools, regarding the use of powered equipment for the application of disinfectants in Maine's schools and the technical requirement of a pesticide applicator license for this type of activity. We have noticed that this issue will be discussed as Agenda item #6 at tomorrow's Board of Pesticides Control meeting. https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/documents2/bd_mtgs/Aug-20-21/Aug21Agd.pdf

Schools rely on sprayers to rapidly and regularly clean and disinfect surfaces. This takes time and the sprayers are the most efficient and safe way to do this work. This is an essential part of the CDC protocols on protecting school communities from COVID-19 and its variants. Many schools and colleges invested in the necessary equipment last year and with COVID still a major public health problem, we must be able to continue to use them.

As you know, during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor issued Executive Order 7A FY20/21, with the support of the Board, providing a license exemption for certain individuals conducting these types of applications in areas open to use by the public, as a result of the need to sanitize these high use areas as efficiently and safely as possible. We understand that previously exempted individuals are inquiring about an extended or permanent licensing exemption.

MAIS would like to support these efforts to extend or permanently provide such a licensing exemption. As you are well aware, the highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19 is now in Maine and children are more susceptible to contracting this version than the version last school year. As a result, any help in allowing MAIS's school staff more flexibility in responding to this pandemic to make our schools more safe for students and teachers to better allow for in-person learning would be very much appreciated. While the law should be changed to accommodate this use without the requirement of each user of the equipment getting a pesticide applicator license, in the interim, the Board and Governor should waive the

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requirement for use this school year.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.W. Walker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel W. Walker

Cc: Megan Patterson (via e-mail)