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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
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WALTER E. WHITCOMB
COMMISSIONER

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DIRECTOR

July 16, 2012

John Jemison, Chairman
Maine Board of Pesticides Control
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Dr. Jemison,

I support the Section 18 Emergency Exemption Request for HopGuard manufactured by BetaTec Hop Products to control Varroa in honey bee colonies. Varroa and the viral complex the mite vectors to immature and adult honey bees are the primary cause for honey bee mortality in Maine, the US and countries where the mite is established.

HopGuard will offer beekeepers an effective treatment alternative to other registered materials such as Apistan (fluvalinate) and CheckMite (coumaphos) since there is widespread resistance to both of these synthetic acaricides. In addition, HopGuard is superior to the thymol based Varroa controls because it can be used during periods of honey production and in a wide range of ambient temperatures without compromising efficacy or causing adverse effects on the honey bee colony such as: queen loss, brood mortality, absconding and robbing behavior.

A healthy beekeeping industry is essential for agricultural production in Maine and throughout the US due to the necessity of honey bees for crop pollination. Honey bees are vital for blueberry production in Maine and the demand for honey bees has increased seven fold over the last three decades (1981- 9,454 hives, 2011-65,000 hives). Honey bees are also used to pollinate Maine's apple, cranberry, small fruit and vegetable crops in order to enhance the yield and quality of these crops.

If you or any board members have questions regarding this request or the status of beekeeping, please contact me at 207-287-7562 desk, 207-441-5822 cell. I plan to attend the Board of Pesticides Control meeting in Presque Isle on July 27th and will answer any questions the board may have. Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. Jadczyk
State Apiarist