



# Maine Forest Products Council

*The voice of Maine's forest economy*

## Testimony in Opposition to LD 1770

### **“An Act to Improve Pesticides Sales and Use Data Collection and Accessibility by the State”**

May 1, 2023

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. I am Patrick Strauch from Exeter, Maine, and the Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC). I am here before you today to testify on behalf of the Council in opposition to LD 1770, “An Act to Improve Pesticides Sales and Use Data Collection and Accessibility by the State.”

The Council is an organization representing more than 300 member companies from all facets of the forest products industry. Members include paper mills, sawmills, loggers, truckers, foresters, panel manufacturers, biomass and pellet facilities and secondary manufacturers. We also have more than 8 million acres of dues paying members.

We are testifying in opposition to this bill today for two reasons.

1) If the goal of LD 1770 is to gain more insight into trends regarding pesticide use in the State, this data is already collected and available in aggregate, making this bill unnecessary. The Bureau of Pesticide Control regulates the use of pesticides under the authority of the EPA. They also enforce state regulations, which include annual use data collection. Applicators are already required to report detailed records of pesticide use annually, and they must maintain these records for two years from the date of application. This data can be used by BPC, and this committee, to establish and monitor trends.

2) Pesticide application strategies, which include timing, method of application, pesticide formulation and target pests, are all proprietary business information. Requiring certified applicators and commercial agricultural producers to keep records including the names of products that were purchased, the address where they were applied, the quantities that were applied and the dates applied would make private business information available to the public, and more importantly, to competitors looking to gain a competitive advantage. According to testimony before this committee last March on LD 2021 by the Bureau of Pesticides Control, no other state makes customer and applicator name and customer address information available to the public. This means that the publication of this proprietary information would put Maine businesses at a unique and significant disadvantage.

#### Companies represented on the MFPC Board

A & A Brochu Logging  
American Forest Mgmt.  
Baskahegan Co.  
BBC Land, LLC  
Columbia Forest Prod.  
Cross Insurance  
Family Forestry  
Farm Credit East  
Fontaine Inc.  
H.C. Haynes  
Huber Resources  
INRS  
J.D. Irving  
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.  
Key Bank  
Kennebec Lumber  
LandVest Inc.  
Louisiana Pacific  
Maibec Logging  
ND Paper  
Nicols Brothers  
Pingree Associates  
Prentiss & Carlisle  
ReEnergy  
Richard Wing & Son  
Robbins Lumber  
Sappi North America  
Southern Maine Forestry  
Stead Timberlands  
St. Croix Tissue  
St. Croix Chipping  
TD Bank  
Timber Resource Group  
Timberstate G.  
Wadsworth Woodlands  
Wagner Forest Mgt.  
Weyerhaeuser  
Woodland Pulp

In summary, forest landowners in the Maine Forest Products Council adhere to the principles of sustainable land stewardship and recognize the importance of communicating with our neighbors and the visiting public. We believe a successful program of pesticide management is currently in place that ensures public safety and accountability.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to vote 'Ought Not to Pass' on LD 1770. Thank you for your consideration.