

Senator Dill, Representative O’Neil and members of the Committee of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

My name is Krystyna Dzialo, and I am here on behalf of the Maine Education Association to testify in support of LD 524 An Act to Require Schools to Submit Pest Management Activity Logs to the Board of Pesticides Control and the Posting of Inspection Results for the Purpose of Providing Information to the Public.

Schools are accountable to the parents and communities they serve. Transparency is important in maintaining the public trust. This bill will simply require schools to document and make available to the public, details of the pest management products that they are using as well as details on the application of these products. Parents and the public deserve to know what pesticides that their children may be exposed to at school. This transparency will also give the public greater confidence that schools are following the procedures, practices and rules established by the Board of Pesticides Control.

While the passage of LD 519 would reduce the list of what is necessary to report, this transparency is still essential for the health and safety of students.

The MEA urges you to support LD 524.

Thank you for your time and attention and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.