

Friends of Penobscot Bay

People who care about Maine's Biggest Bay

May 1, 2017

Senator Paul Davis Representative Danny Martin
State and Local Government Committee
State House Augusta, ME

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1505: An Act To Create Consistency in the Regulation of Pesticides

Dear Senator Davis, Representative Martin, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee:

Please accept this letter at this late hour as the testimony of Friends of Penobscot Bay in opposition to LD 1505: An Act To Create Consistency in the Regulation of Pesticides.

Friends of Penobscot Bay is a marine stewardship organization formed in 1993 to protect and improve the health of Penobscot Bay. Our work involves advocacy, water quality testing and education,

We urgently call on your committee to vote that LD 1505 **ought not to pass**, for the following reasons:

Penobscot Bay hosts Maine's top lobster grounds, but a warming climate is encouraging significant residential and commercial growth along its coast. With such development will come increasing use of pesticides, which ultimately will end up in Penobscot Bay.

The most serious impacts of pesticide runoff occur in intertidal and the shallow subtidal waters. But these are the very places that post-larval and juvenile lobsters congregate for their prey and for protection against predators.

This is why Owls Head, Rockland and Castine have ordinances that limit pesticide use, including herbicides. They are sensible conservative ordinances and we hope that other Penobscot Bay towns will adopt similar ordinances to protect the ecology of their shallows and intertidal waters.

But this would both kill Rockland's Owns Head's and Castine's pesticide ordinances and take away their municipal home rule authority to pass future pesticide-related ordinances – even as pesticide use has been increasing in this area.

We urge the Committee to reject this attack on "home rule". Both for the threat it poses to the lobster fishery of Maine's biggest bay, because the BPC has demonstrate it lacks the financial ability to take up the slack and because it is an attack on community rights as laid down in the Maine constitution

Thank you!

Ron Huber
executive director
Friends of Penobscot Bay
POB 1871 Rockland ME 04841
www.penbay.net