

Resolve 2-18/19

Passage: 8-0 (Costa absent) on 9/17/2018

Effective 9/27/2018

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

KIMBERLY COOK (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING FEDERAL PREEMPTION OF LOCAL PESTICIDE
ORDINANCES**

WHEREAS, the Portland City Council takes seriously its obligation to protect the health and welfare of City residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland wishes to protect the quality of Casco Bay and other waterways that support the economic vitality of local fisheries and the working waterfront; and

WHEREAS, water testing has identified toxic pesticides in Portland's coastal waters; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland wishes to promote land care practices that promote the development of healthy soils to minimize the need to apply pesticides to control unwanted pests; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2018, the Portland City Council passed the City of Portland Pesticide Use Ordinance in order to protect the public and the environment from harm that can be caused by the use of some pesticides; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments are well positioned to respond quickly to threats that may exist in their community; and

WHEREAS, more than 150 local governments across the United States have adopted local ordinances to restrict the use of certain pesticides in response to growing evidence they can harm human health and the local environment;

WHEREAS, the Farm Bill passed by the United States House of Representatives (H.R. 2) contains language that would limit the ability of local governments to protect their communities from potentially harmful pesticides by tailoring regulations to fit local environmental conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council and Mayor hereby oppose the language in the Farm Bill as passed by the United States House of Representatives (H.R. 2) that would prevent local governments from implementing pesticide ordinances that are more strict than Federal rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Portland City Council authorize the Mayor and the Chair of the City Council Sustainability and Transportation Committee to sign the letter attached hereto on behalf of the Council and to send copies to the Maine Congressional Delegation as well as the Chair and Ranking Members of the United States Congressional Conference Committee.