

Written Testimony Support (LD 209 Part U)

1/17/2025

From: Ked Coffin

Regional Forester, Maine

Irving Woodlands LLC

To: Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee

Regarding: Joint public hearing on LD 209 Part U

Dear Members,

My colleagues and I have been at the forefront of adopting and working within the guidelines of the New Brunswick based, Early Intervention Strategy (EIS) that monitors and detects Spruce Budworm (SBW) populations and defines treatment strategies to keep populations at endemic levels and our forest healthy.

Over the last 5 years we have worked with scientific (EIS) guidance to delineate “hotspot” populations on the landscape for treatment. One “hotspot” treatment was adjacent to areas with residential camps and housing where considerable time was invested in educating and informing our neighbors. I consider these communications and those treatments to have been successful at keeping people informed and (SBW) populations in check.

The results of the work that we have done over the last 5 years confirms to me that (EIS) works and is our only option to keeping Maine from looking like Quebec. A fire is raging to our west and the embers have spread across the border into our State. We have to prevent an explosion and keep it suppressed until the source that is feeding it is finally exhausted. It is going to take determination and grit. Please support efforts to keep SBW contained for our Aroostook and Maine way of life.

Sincerely,



Ked Coffin