



February 3, 2025

Sen. Pinny Beebe-Center, Chair  
Rep. Tavis Hasenfus, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
State House, Room 436  
Augusta, Maine 04336

Testimony in support of LD 121 – An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of "Litter"

Chair Beebe-Center, Chair Hasenfus, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, please accept this letter as testimony in support of LD 121 – An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of "Litter" – and a request for your consideration of a clarifying amendment.

We understand the sponsor's intent is to get at people who are gathering up their brush and yard debris and dumping it on another landowners' property, rather than disposing of it properly. We support the concept because it happens on our transmission lines, too.

We hope you'll consider a friendly, clarifying amendment to ensure that our vegetation management and storm clearance work is not impacted, to be appended to the end of **Sec. 1, 2. Litter:**

For the purposes of this subsection, any brush, yard debris, tree trimmings, limbs and wood related to work by public utilities, as defined in Title 35-A, Section 102, and contractors performing work for public utilities, is specifically excluded from the definition of "litter."

For context, with our routine "blue sky" tree trimming, we are responsible for chipping up all brush smaller than 3 inches in diameter and blowing it into the woods or removing it from the property in residential areas. Wood larger than 3" and above is left on site in accordance with the Maine Timber Theft Law.

When we are in storm mode, restoring power and clearing roadways for emergency vehicles, tree debris is left on site, being careful to keep ditches and access points clear, for landowners or municipalities to dispose of.

We appreciate your consideration of our position and will do our best to be available at the work session if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Newman  
Vice President, Government Affairs