

## **Testimony in Support of LD 1132, An Act to Further Protect Low-Impact Landscaping**

**Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, April 4, 2025**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee: I am Sam Butcher, a resident of Brunswick, and I strongly support L.D. 1132. I feel it is essential for residents of our development and the State of Maine to have a say in the chemical treatment of the grounds that surround their homes.

I served as a professor of chemistry at Bowdoin College and have worked on a variety of environmental issues over the years.

My home is in a development of about 90 houses and herbicides are applied to portions of the ground. There are many acres of developed land elsewhere in Brunswick that are not treated with herbicides at all and I have been surprised to note that the surfaces of these grounds do not look significantly different than those in my development.

The herbicides used in our development seem to have little effect on what we see on the top surface of the lawn. But even though I don't see the effects on the top of the ground, I am sure that the worms, birds, four-legged critters, and children playing in the grass do take the effects of the herbicides with them. Furthermore, we do know that a link has been observed between human exposure to herbicides and cancer.

I want to thank Senator Daughtry for her leadership on this and previous property rights legislation. I urge you to vote in favor of L.D. 1132.

Samuel Butcher

LD 1132

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