

Cindy Lang
Thomaston
LD 2094

Dear Senators Hamper, Representative Rotundo, and committee members,
My name is Cindy Lang. I live in Thomaston Maine. My testimony today is to implore this committee to make sure that ample funds are included for specific actions and on going planning for the removal, killing, of invasive plants and all invasive species. Especially terrestrial invasives. For some reason it appears only our lakes have been granted value worth protecting from invasives.

Invasive species are destroying our food webs. Please, before our eyes they are killing our trees, shrubs, perennials, crops, all that make a healthy ecosystem and vibrant biodiversity possible = our food web. In addition they greatly degrading exactly what Maine trades on in every industry, farmers, tourism, and our natural resources. Please do not ignore that invasive plants significantly disrupt native fungal communities, which is soil health.

This plea is not a hobby. It is not a special interest. It is a gigantic wake up call for Maine Leadership to step up and take action. The Science is clear and overwhelming.

And please, not simply fund more pesticide, herbicide, insecticide licenses. Provide funds for school yards, public properties, parks, trails, farms and, importantly, for individuals. I spent about \$5,000.00 this past year alone removing invasives coming from contiguous properties. And I just have a back yard. That does not include my literally 1000 native plants smothered and killed by the invasive Ranunculus repens, creeping buttercup.

This summer it was sickening to see Japanese Knotweed lining the roads in Jackman, and around Attean Lake, and invasive rosa rugosa, bittersweet, multiflora rose and tons of Norway Maples in and around Grand Lake Stream. Invasive plants are in our State parks. It is embarrassing that the enormous funding for trails and climate does not prioritize removing invasive species. Here in Thomaston, which is the entrance to the entire mid coast and islands, the roads are lined with invasive plants, all for the many millions of summer tourists and summer residences \$\$ to observe and experience.

I honestly do not believe that I need to include data. Invasive species are destroying our food webs. Our natural resources Please it makes no sense at all to fund anything to do with our already greatly depleted and challenged natural resources without funding the removal of invasive species.

Thank you and sincerely,
Cindy Lang

<https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/getTestimonyDoc.asp?id=191014>