



Russell Black
Senator, District 5

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR RUSSELL BLACK

LD 121

An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of "Litter"

Public Hearing: February 3, 2025

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Senator Russell Black and I am before you today to introduce L.D. 121 An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of "Litter."

It has come to my attention that illegal dumping of brush and yard waste is an increasing problem in our state, particularly given that most of our land is privately owned. Illegal dumping of brush and yard debris is not only inconsiderate and takes time to clean up, but it also contributes to the spread of invasive species, both of which ultimately become the responsibility of the landowner to deal with. Moreover, this is a significant factor in the increasing number of private lands being posted, when landowners feel forced to take action.

Currently, illegal dumping of brush and yard debris is not prohibited under existing law, leaving game wardens and forest rangers with limited ability to address the issue. By adding brush and yard debris to the definition of "litter," this bill would provide the necessary tools to deal with this growing problem.

You will hear from Krysta West of the Forest Products Council who will provide further details on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present L.D. 121.