

Good morning members of the committee:

My name is Steven Brook I am master arborist and master applicator as well as the state director of ISA (*INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY of ARBOR CULTURE*) for the New England chapter. I have 38 years of experience in the green industry.

I find it hard to imagine such a broad all-encompassing bill would be presented. Without any forethought of the economic impact and public health to the people of the state of Maine. The lack of exemptions for invasive insects and plants which are crucial for maintaining local natural biodiversity and public health. I am addressing the Brown tail moth (*invasive insect*) which has hindered central Maine and spreading in multiple directions throughout the state for the past nine years. I believe most people know about the irritating rash and the respiratory issues it causes.

The environmental benefits pesticides and herbicides have in combating issues like beech leaf disease and emerald ash borer along with a host of others which are vital for preserving Maine's natural biodiversity in are woodlands and personal properties.

The types of applications weren't even considered as an arborist I utilize Many other types of applications such as trunk and soil injections basal bark

Cut stump, foaming which all have far less impact than spraying. Given that
Said there are still times when spraying is the best or only option for a
Particular job.

It's my hope this committee amends and / or places specific exemptions
Concerning this proposed bill LD-356 better still place in the hands of the
Board of pesticides.

Thank you

Steven W. Brook

ISA Master Arborist #7231B

Maine Master Applicator # 3484