

03.30.25

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD1132

Senator~~s~~ Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Abbie Sewall. I am here in strong support of LD1132, *An Act to Further Protect Low-impact Landscaping*. I'd like to thank President Daughtry for introducing this important piece of legislation. I am in complete agreement with the other supportive testimonies for passage of LD1132, which will strengthen LD649 passed June 14, 2023.

I live in a condo in Brunswick, consisting of 96 units on 25 acres built on a known wetland area that sits on top of 8 watersheds. Before moving in, neither the condo *By-Laws, Rules and Regulations*, nor the *Declaration of Condominiums* disclosed the use of 10+ landscaping chemicals per growing season in this vulnerable eco-system. Nor did the condo documents disclose that residents do not have the individual right to opt out of exposure to landscaping chemicals. Nor do residents have the individual right to plant a chemical-free pollinator garden around their units. The biggest share of the condo fees is used to purchase harmful landscaping chemicals to control the natural functions of Nature. See Addendum below for *List of Chemicals Used*.

I live in a monoculture landscape of grass, evergreens and non-native plantings. As a life-long organic gardener, relinquishing the freedom to build fertile soil and watch a garden grow is punishment – and has become intolerable to me.

High-impact landscaping refers to the use of landscaping chemicals. In this method, the plantings succumb to lifeless soil and a vicious cycle of dependency on more chemicals to survive. My integrity felt assaulted by the reality that my monies were contributing to this problem.

As a member of Brunswick's *Conservation Commission*, my focus is to pass a town-wide pesticides ordinance to protect our lands, waters and health from further degradation. My working group draws inspiration from the seven Maine municipalities that have already passed restricted pesticides ordinances: Ogunquit, Cape Elizabeth, So. Portland, Portland, Hallowell, Blue Hill, and now Falmouth. They have taken responsible steps to protect their most valuable assets: land, air, water and health.

While optimistic that Brunswick *Town Council* will pass a town-wide pesticides ordinance, the debate continues.

The passage of LD1132 will restore my individual right to practice low-impact landscaping in a small and responsible way around my unit, and allow me to opt-out of chemicals, giving pollinators, bird life and beneficial insects the opportunity to do their work in a chemical-free zone that will not harm our coastline.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Member of Conservation Commission, Brunswick

Note: HIGH IMPACT LANDSCAPING: landscaping with chemicals
LOW IMPACT LANDSCAPING: landscaping without chemicals

ADDENDUM

CHEMICALS USED BY MY COA, SPRING 2024 WITH SUMMARY OF TOXICITY

Note: Signal words are Caution, Warning, and Danger, with Danger being the highest). Toxicity Categories range from 1-4, with 1 being the highest toxicity

Razor-X: all Razor products, summary of toxicity: long lasting effects to aquatic plants, “known to the state of California to be a carcinogen” “classified as a probable human carcinogen Group 2A based on limited human evidence, prolonged exposure may cause effects to the liver. Haz (no agreed upon signal word)

Trimec: Summary: acute oral toxicity (Category 4) acute dermal toxicity (Category 4) serious eye damage (Category 1) chronic aquatic toxicity (Category 2). Signal word: **Danger**

Quinclorac: Harmful to aquatic life with long-lasting effects, harmful if inhaled (Category 4), eye irritation (Category 2B), Skin irritation (Category 2) Signal word: **Warning**

Ranger Pro: Very toxic to aquatic environment with long term toxicity, serious eye damage (Category 3), respiratory damage (Category 3) skin corrosion (Category 1) Signal word: **Warning**

Procon-Z: Toxic to aquatic environment, may cause damage to organs, causes eye irritation (Category 2) causes respiratory irritation. Signal word: **Warning**

Rally: Carcinogenic (Category 1A), reproductive toxicity (Category 2), Specific organ toxicity to liver (Category 2) Signal word: **Danger**

Dimension .19: causes serious eye irritation, causes skin irritation, harmful to aquatic life. Signal word: **Caution**

Snapshot: Acute toxicity for inhalation (Category 3), carcinogenicity (Category 1A), specific organ toxicity Category 1) signal word: **Danger**

Avenger (organic) Note: The active ingredient is a solvent, and “is considered hazardous by the 2012 OSHA Hazard Communication Standard. Skin corrosion/irritation (Category 2), skin sensitization (Category 1) Signal word: **Warning**

Conserve: Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects. (Category 1). Toxic to bees. Signal word: **Warning**