



Craig V. Hickman  
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman in support of*  
**LD 1132, An Act to Further Protect Low-impact Landscaping**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary*  
Friday, April 4, 2025

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County, including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 1132, "An Act to Further Protect Low-impact Landscaping." I also want to thank President Daughtry for her continued leadership on this important issue.

As the President said in her testimony, this bill is about individual rights. This is about a unit owner being able to make decisions about what is done with the land immediately adjacent to their dwelling, even if it is in a condo association or homeowners' association. This is about a property owner deciding to protect themselves, their kids, and their pets from potentially harmful pesticides.

Last session, the Legislature made it so that unit owners could control what they planted near their home. However, they could not prevent pesticides from being applied to these same plants. As an organic farmer, this goes against the very ethos of my relationship with the land. If someone would prefer to keep chemicals away from their home, they should be able to do so, even in a shared space.

While this bill does not relate directly to vegetable gardens, the protections could also conceivably apply to food grown in someone's yard. It is important for people to have control over what is put on their vegetable or fruit plants so that they can control what is entering their bodies.

Thank you for your time.

Craig V. Hickman  
State Senator, District 14