

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am Samuel S. Butcher, a resident of Brunswick, and strongly in support of L. D. 1132. I feel it is essential for residents of our development and the State of Maine to have a say in the chemical treatment of the grounds that may surround their homes.

I served as a professor of chemistry at Bowdoin College and have worked on a variety of environmental issues over the years:

My home is in a development of about 90 houses on 24 acres. Herbicides are applied to portions of the ground of our development. There are many acres of developed land elsewhere in Brunswick that are not treated with herbicides at all and I have been surprised to note that the surface of these grounds do not look significantly different than those in my development.

The herbicides used in our development seem to have little effect on what we see on the surface of the lawn. But even though I do not see the effects on the ground, I am sure that the worms, birds, four-legged critters and children playing in the grass do take the effects of the herbicides with them. Furthermore, we do know that a link has been observed between human exposure to herbicides and cancer.

I want to thank Senator Daughtry for her leadership on this and previous property right legislation. I urge this committee to vote in favor of L. D. 1132.