

Ben Dow
Waterville

Distinguished Members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee

My name is Ben Dow. I am a life-long Mainer, graduate of the University of Maine, and Licensed Maine Forester. I am writing you in opposition to LD 125 “An Act to Prohibit the Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate and Other Synthetic Herbicides for the Purpose of Silviculture.”

Mainers are blessed with an abundance of natural resources, including 17.6 million acres of forestland. I am fortunate enough to have spent the last 22 years managing parts of this amazing resource in several areas within our State. My job as a Forester is one in which I take great pride and my profession is full of people that want to do the right thing.

Science and technology guide the practices in the Maine Woods. The Maine Board of Pesticide Control provides scientific review of pesticides with the support of the State Toxicologist. Ample rules have been put in place that notify members of the public of the plans by Forest Managers. In fact, these rules are above and beyond those required by agriculture and are some of the most rigorous in the Country. GPS navigation systems track flight patterns and allow Professional Applicators to accurately apply herbicide to the area designed by Professional Foresters.

The use of herbicide is an essential tool in the tool-box of Foresters. It has allowed us to grow more wood for an essential part of the Maine economy. This tool has also allowed for improved forest health by way of limiting the amount of diseased beech trees in our forests. The wildlife benefits of this tool are also well documented. We have the largest population of Canada Lynx in the continental U.S. in large part due to the habitat created by the herbicide tool.

In short, LD 125 is bad for business, bad for the future of our forests, and quite frankly unnecessary. I urge you to oppose LD 125.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Dow
Maine Licensed Forester LF3474