



Dear members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry,

On behalf of Maine's organic dairy farmers, I'm writing to express support for LD 125, An Act To Prohibit the Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate and Other Synthetic Herbicides for the Purpose of Silviculture.

Aerial spraying of herbicides poses a contamination risk to Maine's organic farms. When woodlots adjacent to agricultural land are sprayed with synthetic pesticides like glyphosate, there is a serious risk of drift damaging crops. Furthermore, if those fields are certified organic the pesticide contamination will render the land unusable for organic production for a minimum of three years. These herbicides also have the potential to contaminate surface and groundwater resources upon which dairy producers depend. Aerial spraying has the potential to cause significant economic damage to organic farmers at no fault of their own.

The reckless application of toxic chemicals runs counter to the principles of organic agriculture and holistic land management. Using poisons to replace our precious native forests with plantation monocultures is not a responsible use of Maine's natural resources. I urge you to support LD 125.

Sincerely,

Andrew Smith  
Vice President of Maine Organic Milk Producers