

To members of the committee:

I write in support of this bill to ban aerial spraying of herbicides, including glyphosate, on industrial forest land. The state should have banned years ago this barbaric practice, which kills all life forms on which we depend for diversity -- birds, bees, and other pollinators , and beneficial soil organisms -- and contaminates essential water sources.

Some 15 years ago, Wyman and Cherryfield were forced to cease spraying commercial blueberry barrens from the air, and the success of the organic sector demonstrates that the industry need not rely on ground applications either.

The same argument holds for forestry.

Drift happens. The pollution of organic farms from forestry spraying is a matter of record.

Please pass LD 125 without weakening amendments.i

Jody Spear, Brooksville