

**Testimony of Louie Pelletier III  
In Opposition to LD 261  
“An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting”**

**Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee  
February 11, 2025**

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to ask you to vote no on LD 261, “An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting”. This legislation is an alarming and heavy-handed attempt to wrest local control away from small town Maine and force them to spend far too much money wading through a sea of confusion to reinstate long agreed upon ordinances.

I am a fifth-generation logger and live in Allagash where I now own and operate a lumberyard and wooden furniture business called Allagash Wood Products with my father. My father began working in the woods as a child with his dad, Lou Sr., when horses were still twitching hand-cut timber for river drives. I began my career just as mechanical operations were really taking over. Before I joined the current family business I was a co-owner of a processor, which is a highly sophisticated piece of harvesting machinery able to cut, limb, and saw wood to length. This is all to say we understand the woods and have seen a lot.

That’s why I am supportive of local ordinances that small towns like mine have taken up. Here in Allagash we have periodically revisited ordinances that reflected what the townspeople in a community of loggers known for its lumbering history wanted. In 2004 as a father of two young daughters I circulated a petition to prohibit aerial glyphosate spraying in Allagash. I had seen what these potent chemicals do to a piece of land and more than two decades later I still believe Allagash made the right choice when it resoundingly passed that ordinance. Now as a grandfather of three small youngsters who I want to spend time outdoors with I am offended that the state is fixated on a bizarre effort to roll back the protections we Allagash residents made for them.

I have never heard of any piece of state law that arbitrarily undoes what decisions have been made in a community going back to 1990. It alarms me that this bill reads exactly like Irving wrote it to wash away Allagash’s spraying prohibition and deer conservation protections while hiding behind the State of Maine and Maine Forestry Service. I suggest that in this day and age of hard feelings between taxpayers and government the state drop this breach of local control and instead focus on efforts to build bridges with communities.

Democrat, Republican, or Independent, we are all waking up to the need for more local control and better understanding how chemicals like glyphosate impact human health. We are also seeing a huge crisis here in northern Maine’s deer herd, among other wildlife issues. Allagash stepped up to protect itself because the state wasn’t doing its

job. This bill doesn't inspire much confidence that things have changed. Please vote against this ridiculous bill and consider yourself welcome for a visit to Allagash any time.

Thank you,

Louie Pelletier III  
Allagash