



Testimony before the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on LD 125 “An Act to Ban Use of Aerial Herbicide Spraying for Forestry Practices”

March 2, 2021

Senator Clark, Representative O’Neill and honorable Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of LD 125.

My name is Mary Finn, and I am a resident of Saco. I submit this testimony on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network (MUSSAN) as a person of faith acknowledging our responsibility to protect the quality of the environment. We have a respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

I am proud to add the voice of our 650+ -member organization in support of this legislation, which would ban aerial herbicide spraying which reduces food and habitat for wildlife and results in chemical persistence in the environment. When passed this bill will encourage a shift toward more ecologically friendly forestry practices.

My family is a customer of Maine Organic farmers who have been affected by aerial spraying and loss of their organic certification, which also deeply affects their ability to make a living from their farms. We also enjoy camping and hiking as thousands do in the Northern Maine woods, and wish to continue to do so in a nontoxic environment. Glyphosate is a deadly environmental toxin that is currently banned in other states and in 17 other countries because it is a harmful toxin and was determined to be a “probable human carcinogen” in 2015 by the World Health Organization. Let’s do the right thing and ban it.

Unfortunately, the use of aerial spraying is increasing, particularly by larger landowners, although it is contrary to Maine state policy. We believe that by passing LD 125, the State of Maine will ensure a healthy Maine forest ecology and economy.

Let’s do what is right to protect the environment and Maine people.

Mary Finn