



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 870, "An Act To Amend the Maine Spruce Budworm Management Laws."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.


This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For this reason, I return LD 870 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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