



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Companies represented on the MFPC Board

American Forest Mgmt.
Baskahegan Co.
BBC Lands LLC
Cross Insurance
Family Forestry
Farm Credit East
Fontaine Inc.
Hancock Lumber
H.C. Haynes
Huber Resources
Innovative Natural Resource Solutions
J.D. Irving
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.
Key Bank
LandVest Inc.
Limington Lumber
Louisiana Pacific
Maibec Logging
Nicols Brothers
Pingree Associates
Pleasant River Lumber
Prentiss & Carlisle
ReEnergy
Richard Wing & Son
Robbins Lumber
Sappi North America
Southern Maine Forestry
Stead Timberlands
TD Bank
Timber Resource Group
Timberstate G.
Verso Paper
Wadsworth Woodlands
W.T. Gardner & Sons
Wagner Forest Mgt.
Weyerhaeuser

Testimony opposing LD 1691 An Act To Ban Use of Aerial Herbicide Spraying for the Purpose of Deforestation

May 9, 2019

Peter Triandafillou, MFPC Board member

Senator Dill, Representative Hickman and distinguished members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, my name is Peter Triandafillou. I am vice president of Woodlands for Huber Resources Corp, a timberland firm that manages 600,000 acres in Maine.

I am also here representing the Maine Forest Products Council. Since 1961, MFPC has represented the broad spectrum of our state's diverse forest products community, including logging contractors, sawmills, pulp and paper mills, biomass energy facilities, pellet manufacturers, furniture manufacturers, and the owners of more than eight million acres of commercial forestland in Maine.

I am here in opposition to LD 1691.

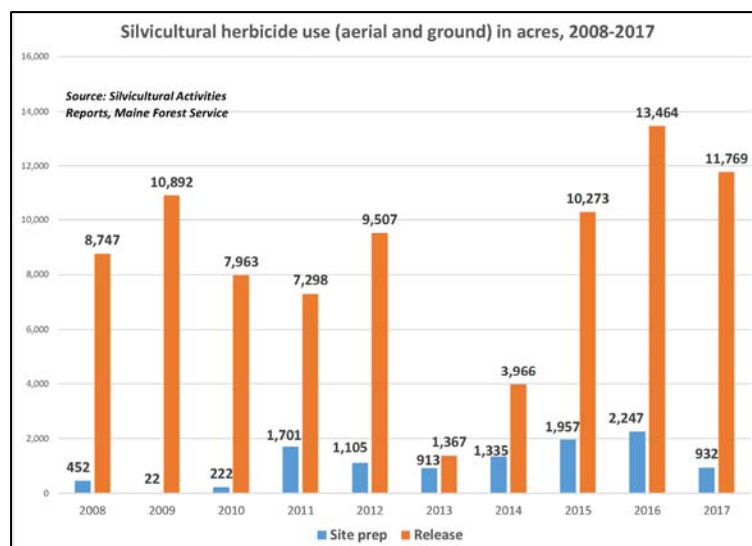
I have used this proven and safe silvicultural tool for decades. It is an essential part of plantation management, and very important for control of invasive and other undesirable vegetative competition from crop trees.

The three primary uses for herbicide treatment are: Release of planted conifer trees from herbaceous and undesirable tree competition; release of natural conifer regeneration for the same reasons, and release of maple and other desirable hardwood species from competition from diseased American beech.

Our job is to grow high quality trees as quickly as possible.

Data from the Maine Forest Service show that the ratio of growth to harvest for all species in Maine except for aspen is positive. There are many reasons for this, but silviculture, including appropriate harvesting methods, precommercial and commercial thinning, and herbicide release, is a key reason. At a time when Maine's forest products industry is expanding, it would be a big mistake to take away this essential silvicultural tool.

The use of herbicides for forestry is regulated by the EPA and Maine. This includes rates of application and allowed application sites. We control drift through boom technology in helicopters and careful monitoring of weather (wind) conditions. The primary chemical used, glyphosate,



binds to the soil and biodegrades. It therefore cannot migrate from an application area to waterways, and we never spray over open water. The average half-life of the chemical in the soil is about thirty days as it degraded over time by soil microbes into naturally-occurring substances.¹

Some may point out recent court cases where juries have awarded damages to plaintiffs claiming illness from herbicide use. The juries relied on unsound science from the World Health Organization. The EPA has studied glyphosate for decades and considers it safe and lists it as allowable for silvicultural treatments.²

You have heard that timberland owners apply herbicide at a rate of four to five quarts per acre when the allowed rate is less than one ounce per acre. This confuses the fact that glyphosate comes in a concentrate. The application rate may indeed be less than one ounce per acre, but it is diluted with water for a delivery of several quarts per acre of total liquid.

Forest sites are treated once or at most twice over a 40- to 80-year crop rotation. This is not because competing vegetation doesn't grow on the site for that time. In fact, hardwoods and herbaceous growth return within a year or two. However, once the desired crop trees have gotten the head start they need from the treatment, they remain the dominant trees on the site from that point forward. This kind of silviculture is expensive, and we only use it where necessary.

The effects of glyphosate have been extensively studied by the EPA and federal agencies. It has and continues to be considered safe, with minimal risks to animal life.

In summary, the entire forest products industry, including the thousands of people that make a good livelihood in our forests and mills, depends on good silviculture and science to prosper. LD1691 eliminates an important, safe, and effective tool for no good reason. I urge you to vote no on LD 1691.

Thank you for your time.

¹ 2014. (10th Edition) and Herbicide Handbook, Weed Science Society of America, p. 241.
Reference cited is: Wauchope, R. D, et al. 1992. Rev. Environ. Contam. Toxicol. 13.1.

² <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/glyphosate>