



# 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  
Bradbury Forest Mgmt.  
Columbia Forest Prod.  
Cross Insurance  
Family Forestry  
Farm Credit East  
Fontaine Inc.  
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  
ND Paper  
Nicols Brothers  
Pingree Associates  
Pixelle Specialty Sol.  
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.  
Wadsworth Woodlands  
Wagner Forest Mgt.  
Weyerhaeuser

## Testimony opposing LD 1158 An Act Regarding the Application of Certain Pesticides for Nonagricultural Use

April 13, 2021

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Senator Dill, Representative O' Neil and distinguished members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, I am Patrick Strauch from Exeter, Maine, and the executive director of the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC). I represent Maine's forest product industry, which contributes more than \$8 billion to the state's economy, and more than 33,000 direct and indirect jobs.

MFPC strongly opposes LD 1158 because forestry uses of pesticides are critical and because the Board of Pesticide Control (BPC) is a technical, not an adjudicatory board.

### **Sec. 1. Persistent Synthetic Pesticide Ban**

Pesticides should not be banned for non-agricultural use, as they are an essential tool for silviculture, and pesticide applications are highly regulated by the BPC.

In order to successfully manage forests to achieve forest management goals for the people of Maine, foresters' culture certain kinds of tree species.<sup>1</sup> This is a core principle for both forest health and viable forest economy. Decades of research from around the world (Wagner et al. 2006) have clearly shown that effectively managing vegetation is vital to the success of forest regeneration. Indeed, one of the longest running studies in the world, the Austin Pond study in northern Maine, has clearly demonstrated the important role that herbicides play in

---

<sup>1</sup> Robert G. Wagner, Professor and head of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University, and formerly Henry W. Saunders Distinguished Professor, School of Forest Resources, University of Maine.

providing for successful conifer regeneration over many decades (Olson et al. 2012, Bataineh et al. 2013). The inability to use herbicides, especially glyphosate, will lead to forest regeneration failures in many places that will have negative repercussions for many decades to come.

Invasive plant species are threatening native tree regeneration in forests across the United States. A number of invasive plant species are increasing in abundance across Maine's forests every year. The Maine Natural Areas Program has identified 52 plants species that are severely invasive, and 31 species considered to be very invasive. Herbicides, especially glyphosate, are highly effective, and in most cases the only effective and affordable tool for combating the spread of invasive exotic plants in Maine's forests. Loss of this safe and effective tool will severely reduce the ability of forest managers to help stop the spread of invasive exotic plants.

In the treatment of Spruce Budworm infestations, both organic and synthetic insecticides, may provide the most effective and safe treatments. Ruling out all synthetic pesticide solutions in a modern world is unrealistic and removes an important tool in modern forest management.

## **Sec. 2 Composition of the Board of Pesticides Control; working group.**

The BPC's job is to oversee and regulate of pesticides in Maine and they do it well. They listen to all parties and base their decision on sound science. They are a technical committee of the agency and therefore require pesticide management experience. These members are "To provide the knowledge and experience necessary for carrying out the duties of the board" (Title 22, Chpt 258-A)

The process for confirming members to the BPC is thorough and includes 7 members appointed by the Governor, subject to the approval of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture matters and confirmation by the Senate.

We think this process is thorough with significant oversight by the Administrative and Legislative bodies. Individuals are selected, in part, based on their integrity and credentials in the field of experience they represent as well as their professionalism. We therefore believe the proposed language to identify any appearance of a financial conflict of interest is not required.

The Council urges you to **vote ought not to pass on LD 1158.**

Thank you.