

BAN AERIAL HERBICIDE SPRAYING FOR FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

LD 125 will protect Maine land, water, wildlife, and people with ecologically friendly forestry practices.

Forestry herbicides threaten public health, ecological systems, and local farms.

- Some of Maine's large forest landowners routinely use aerial spraying of hazardous chemicals to manage their property.
- Glyphosate, the most commonly used herbicide in forest management, is linked to serious health impacts. It may cause chromosomal damage, harm fetal development, reduce liver and kidney function, and lead to endocrine disruption.
- Aerial herbicide spraying reduces food and habitat for wildlife and results in chemical persistence in the environment. The U.S. EPA has found that glyphosate likely threatens nearly every animal and plant species on the U.S. list of threatened and endangered species.
- Herbicide spray drift can travel great distances – even miles – and threaten the health and economic livelihood of organic farmers. Contaminated produce cannot be marketed as organic, and farm families whose land is contaminated by pesticide drift must surrender their organic certification for three years, through no fault of their own.

Aerial spraying of herbicides runs contrary to state policy – but it's on the rise.

- Since 1989, state policy has required agencies involved in pesticide use and regulation to promote the principles and the implementation of integrated pest management and other science-based technology to minimize reliance on pesticides.
- If Maine's Outcome Based Forestry program were to follow the state's 1989 legislative policy, and if large landowners were to embrace the mandates of the Forest Stewardship Council to which they belong, Maine would make progress with minimizing its reliance on pesticides.
- The 129th Legislature required the Board of Pesticides Control to work with the forest industry to assess aerial herbicide spraying. That process determined that voluntary standards were "sufficient" – yet Maine's reliance on herbicides for forestry management is increasing. In 2018, acres of Maine forest sprayed with aerial herbicides exceeded the eleven-year average by 69%.

After thirty years of discussion, it's time to act.

- LD 125 will ban the aerial spraying of glyphosate and other synthetic herbicides and encourage a shift toward more ecologically friendly forestry practices.
- State government agencies should embrace policies that help forest landowners improve the stocking, volume, and quality of their properties in order to build a healthy forest ecology and economy.



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SUPPORT LD 125.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY MAINE FOREST ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY.

For more information, please contact Heather Spalding, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, at (207) 568-6006 or heathers@mofga.org.

Environmental Priorities Coalition



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 32 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

