

April 6, 2026

Maine Board of Pesticides Control
State of Maine
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028

To the Members of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control,

I am writing on behalf of Bangor Beautiful to support the proposal to allow trained volunteers to apply herbicides on public lands under the direct supervision of a licensed Master Commercial Pesticide Applicator.

Bangor Beautiful improves and cares for public spaces through tree planting, native plantings, public art, and the restoration of native habitats. Invasive plants are a recurring challenge in this work, often threatening native plantings and undermining restoration efforts.

We have been working with a certified applicator on invasive species management, and that expertise has been very helpful. At the same time, both professional time and nonprofit funding are limited. For organizations like ours, that can make it difficult to keep up with the ongoing work invasive species management requires.

We support a carefully limited approach that would allow trained volunteers to assist with low-risk, targeted herbicide applications under direct professional supervision. Methods such as cut-stump, hack-and-squirt, and stem injection can be appropriate tools for protecting native plantings and restored habitat.

Allowing supervised volunteer participation would give community organizations a practical way to better care for the public spaces they help restore, while maintaining appropriate oversight and safeguards.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Greg Edwards
Bangor Beautiful