PETITION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK TO THE HONOURABLE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NEW BRUNSWICK, ASSEMBLED:

Whereas approximately 13,000 ha of New Brunswick Crown forest are sprayed every year with herbicides to kill hardwoods and plants that compete with seedlings in plantations;

Whereas spraying herbicides to kill broad leaf trees and shrubs in young conifer plantations destroys the food source and habitats of forest wildlife;

Whereas glyphosates, the herbicide used in New Brunswick Crown forest silviculture, has been labelled a probable human carcinogen by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2015;

Whereas the province of Quebec, with approximately 90 per cent of its forested land under public ownership, banned herbicide spraying of its public forest in 2001 in light of public health concerns;

Whereas replacing the use of herbicides in Crown forest with thinning crews of people working in the woods - as Quebec has done since 2001 - would ensure more jobs from our forest resource;

Whereas the Auditor General of New Brunswick attributed the annual forest deficit (\$7-\$10 million for each of the last five years) to the costly silviculture program in a report tabled to the N.B. Legislature in June 2015. At a cost of about \$1,000/hectare, herbicide spraying contributes to N.B.'s annual forest deficit and prevents natural forest regeneration;

Whereas there is a widespread public opposition to the spraying of the forest in New Brunswick. Three petitions against spraying the forest have been tabled in the New Brunswick Legislature in just over ten years.

The petition of the undersigned requests that NB MLAs support a ban on the spraying of glyphosates in Crown forest management in New Brunswick.

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