Why should you join MFPC?

Dick Robertson, Chief Credit and Risk Management Officer, Farm Credit of Maine, Auburn: “The Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC) is the “common voice” for landowners, mills, loggers, trucking and others who provide essential products and services to Maine’s diverse and economically important wood businesses on governmental, trade and environmental affairs that are essential to the industries well-being and the forest economy. The MFPC proactively represents its members on a number of business issues that directly and indirectly impact the broader forest industry community. The forest products industry provides Maine families with excellent employment opportunities, a great place to live and produces products that are consumed by people all over the world. Collectively, the industry has and continues to enjoy the benefits and rewards of working together.”

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Jim Robbins Sr., Robbins Lumber, Searsmont: “We belong to the Maine Forest Products Council because they do a fantastic job representing the Maine forest products industry in Maine legislative matters and also our interests at the federal level. They cover the broad diversity of interests within our industry and also give us a great opportunity to interact with others in our industry. They are very professional at what they do and represent us well.”

David Wilson, Katahdin Forest Management, Millinocket: “I feel there are two important reasons to be part of the MFPC membership and participate as a board member. One is to stay informed of the political process in Augusta and the second is to promote the importance of the forest industry in Maine.”

Jim Contino, Verso Paper, Bucksport: “I am an active member in MFPC because it gives me an excellent forum to work on common issues and strengthen relationships within my wood supply chain.”

Mark Doty, community affairs manager, Plum Creek Timber Co., Fairfield:
- Common voice of the industry
- Opportunities to interact with industry members
- Feeds with news that is important to my company

David Stearns, Chadbourne Tree Farms, Bethel: “We are a small family owned company and do not have the time or the resources to stay on top of all of the legislative issues that impact our business. Having MFPC in Augusta during sessions has greatly improved the overall legislative climate. I feel that having MFPC involved and visible keeps our law makers in check. Personally, I like the flow of information. It works good for me to receive emails and newsletters so that I can stay current on those same issues.”

Charles Tardif, vice president of Corporate Development and Procurement, Maibec Logging Inc., Fort Kent:

“As a Canadian member of MFPC, our participation to MFPC allows us to:
- Be better informed on Maine Legislature and new bills that could affect our business
- Be represented and defended, if needed, during presentations of adverse bills at the Maine Legislature
- Hub where forest land owners, loggers, truckers and mills can debate and discuss common and opposite, in some case, topics and try to find common ground.
- MFPC representation allows us to propose legislative material.
- Support in the Labor field especially with the situation of scarcity of trained labor along Maine – Québec border.
- MFPC helps maintain a balanced and well-informed view about international wood trade between Canada and USA
- Create social opportunities to meet with log and service suppliers

We really appreciate the Council and feel well represented.”
Since 1961, the Maine Forest Products Council has been a vital voice for the forest products community in Maine, including landowners, paper mills, sawmills, wood pellet plants, biomass energy plants, loggers, truckers, primary and secondary wood processors, and related service industries. The primary purpose of the Council is to provide a supportive economic and public policy climate for the forest products community and promote a healthier, more vital forestry sector.

Membership dues are based on acres or production, but there also are rates for individuals and associated businesses.

How we work for members’ interests
MFPC stays on top of legislative and regulatory initiatives affecting Maine’s forest products industry by:
- Working with policy makers to enhance Maine’s business climate for our members
- Creating important policy dialogue among members
- Conducting outreach efforts to inform the public about Maine’s forest products industry
- Updating economic impact information about our industry (a new initiative is starting now).
- Helping members stay informed on the industry in Maine and beyond with Forest Products Headlines, a news clipping service for state, national and international stories, and MFPC This Week, a weekly newsletter focused on issues and initiatives that impact Maine’s forest products industry.

Fellowship and networking
Take advantage of the Council’s opportunities to visit with industry and political leaders.
- MFPC Annual Meeting – Held in September, this event takes place in a new location every year and offers an important review of the year’s events and a glimpse of issues to come
- Summer Golf Tournament – An opportunity to have fun and catch up with industry leaders
- Legislative Reception – An avenue to connect with legislators in a relaxed setting
- Regional member breakfasts – Get to know industry leaders in your area and discuss your concerns.

Board of Directors
President
Richard Robertson, Farm Credit East
Vice President
Jim Contino, Verso Paper
Secretary
Mark Doty, Plum Creek
Treasurer
John Gray
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Nicolas Fontaine, Fontaine Inc.
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Terry Walters, Lavalley Lumber
Steve Schley, Pingree Associates
Jim Robbins Sr., Robbins Lumber
Gordon Gamble, Wagner Forest Management

Other Board Members
John Bryant, American Forest Management
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Kevin Hynes, Hancock Lumber
James Cote, J.M. Cote Company
Anthony Hourihan, J.D. Irving
Eric Kingsley, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions
David Wilson, Katahdin Forest Management

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Be heard in Augusta and Washington!
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More reasons to join MFPC
Brian Flewelling, Key Bank N.A., Presque Isle:
- “Ability to keep my finger on the pulse of what is happening in the forestry industry.
- Very diverse group. Good cross section of industries represented. See all sides on of how we should act upon an issue!

Jim Runyan, Salt Meadow Farm, Pembroke: “There are three main reasons I am a member of the Council, in no particular order:
- It is an information link between the forest products industry and state/federal regulators and law makers
- Networking with other members of the industry from landowners to major manufacturing and everything that makes it work in between
- As a profession industrial forester in the past and consulting with the forest industry today (most of which is not in the state of Maine) I feel an obligation to be involve with the states forest products association. What I can learn from them and what they can learn from me.”