

The 128th Legislature Committee on Taxation requested that a review of the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law be conducted. Specific questions were posed to a group of representatives from The Maine Forest Products Council, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Farm Bureau, Maine Woodland Owners, Maine Municipal Association, Association of Consulting Foresters and the University of Maine. A public meeting will be held on January 3 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the State House - Room 126 (Transportation Committee Room) in Augusta Maine with the purpose of gathering information and comments on the following charges:

- Identifying changes in penalty provisions that should be made in the law;
- Identifying any impediments to enforcement and recommending changes that would improve enforcement;
- Identifying any causes of confusion among landowners, foresters or assessors regarding the requirements or administration of the law and recommending changes to improve administration;
- Analyzing whether the minimum lot size of 10 acres for new enrollments of land should be modified;
- Analyzing whether there are changes to the forester licensing law that would improve the administration of the law;
- Analyzing the proper role of the Maine Forest Service in implementing the law;
- Identifying whether there are requirements in the law that should be added or dropped;
- Reviewing changes made to the Law in 2012 and assessing the effectiveness of those changes;
- Providing any other information regarding the law that you think would be helpful to members of the Taxation Committee.

Full language of the Committee on Taxation charge is attached. If unable to attend, interested parties are welcome to submit written comments to the organization from which you received this announcement or to Stephen Shaler, Director - School of Forest Resources - University of Maine (shaler@maine.edu).

