



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Companies represented on the MFPC Board

American Forest Mgmt.
Baskahegan Co.
BBC Lands LLC
Bradbury Forest Mgmt.
Columbia Forest Prod.
Cross Insurance
Family Forestry
Farm Credit East
Fontaine Inc.
H.C. Haynes
Huber Resources
Innovative Natural
Resource Solutions
J.D. Irving
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.
Key Bank
LandVest Inc.
Limington Lumber
Louisiana Pacific
Maibec Logging
ND Paper
Nicols Brothers
Pingree Associates
Pixelle Specialty Sol.
Pleasant River Lumber
Prentiss & Carlisle
ReEnergy
Richard Wing & Son
Robbins Lumber
Sappi North America
Southern Maine Forestry
Stead Timberlands
TD Bank
Timber Resource Group
Timberstate G.
Wadsworth Woodlands
Wagner Forest Mgt.
Weyerhaeuser

Testimony in Support of James R. May's nomination to the Land Use Planning Commission

February 9, 2021

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Sen. Dill, Rep. O'Neill, and distinguished members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, I am Patrick Strauch, executive director of the Maine Forest Products Council. I am speaking today in support of James R. May's nomination to the Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC).

Since 1961, the Maine Forest Products Council has represented our state's diverse forest products community, including logging contractors, sawmills, paper mills, biomass energy facilities, pellet manufacturers, furniture manufacturers, and the owners of about nine million acres of commercial forestland in Maine.

Even a quick look at James May's resume makes it clear that he will continue to be an effective LUPC member. The Council supported Mr. May's nomination to the Land Use Regulation Commission in 2012 and 2017. Since then his qualifications and expertise have only increased.

Mr. May, who has been a resident of Aroostook County since 1966, is an accomplished forester with a degree from the University of Maine. After working seven years for International Paper, he spent 36 years with Prentiss & Carlisle. He was a member of the Administrative Committee of North Maine Woods for 30 years, including two years as chairman and six years as treasurer. He has also served on the Ashland Planning Board and Town Council, including chairing the council for a year.

Mr. May has clearly demonstrated a strong commitment to sound planning, zoning and development in the unorganized and deorganized townships of our state. Just two months after he left LUPC in 2013, he began working on the Aroostook County Steering Committee for Community Guided Planning and Zoning initiative, serving until 2015.

Over the years, both his co-workers and colleagues have appreciated not only his professionalism, but his ability to listen and learn.

"He is thoughtful, always prepared for meetings," one MFPC member said. Another added, "Jim is an adept listener and blessed with a lot of common sense."

The Council strongly recommends his reappointment. His vast knowledge of the LUPC jurisdiction is very valuable to the LUPC board.

Thank you for your consideration.