



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 LD 90 An Act To Amend the Removal Process Applicable to the Position of State Supervisor of the Forest Protection Unit of the Bureau of Forestry

February 2, 2021

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neill and distinguished members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee,

MFPC supports LD 90 because it will help insure the Forest Protection Unit (FPU) can retain experienced, knowledgeable officers after they have served as the FPU state supervisor.

The state supervisor is an appointed position and every administration has the opportunity to fill it. LD 90 would simply clarify that if a state supervisor is not chosen to continue serving in that position, he or she can resume the position held previously or a position equivalent in salary grade "without impairment of personnel status or the loss of seniority, retirement or other rights."

For obvious reasons, the effectiveness of the FPU is very important to Maine's large landowner community. Fighting forest fires requires a high degree of knowledge, expertise, and the right training and tools to do the job, including helicopter support.

Traditionally, the state supervisor has worked closely with large landowners because a high degree of community coordination is required in the event of a major fire.

Landowners also fund the FPU in part through the annual [Commercial Forestry Excise Tax](#), which is assessed on owners of more than 500 acres of commercial forest land to partially offset the costs of forest fire protection.

Please support LD 90.

Thank you for your consideration.