



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Companies represented on the MFPC Board

A & A Brochu Logging
American Forest Mgmt.
Baskahegan Co.
BBC Land, LLC
Columbia Forest Prod.
Cross Insurance
Family Forestry
Farm Credit East
Fontaine Inc.
H.C. Haynes
Huber Resources
INRS
J.D. Irving
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.
Key Bank
Kennebec Lumber
LandVest Inc.
Louisiana Pacific
Maibec Logging
ND Paper
Nicols Brothers
Pingree Associates
Prentiss & Carlisle
ReEnergy
Richard Wing & Son
Robbins Lumber
Sappi North America
Southern Maine Forestry
Stead Timberlands
St. Croix Tissue
St. Croix Chipping
TD Bank
Timber Resource Group
Timberstate G.
Wadsworth Woodlands
Wagner Forest Mgt.
Weyerhaeuser
Woodland Pulp

Testimony in Neither for Nor Against LD 108 “An Act To Establish A Logger Relations Advocate Within The Maine Forest Service”

January 30, 2023
Krysta West, Deputy Director

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. I'm Krysta West, the Deputy Director of the Maine Forest Products Council. The Maine Forest Products Council is an organization representing more than 300 members from all facets of the forest products industry. Members include paper mills, sawmills, loggers, truckers, foresters, panel manufacturers, biomass and pellet facilities and secondary manufacturers. We also have more than 8 million acres of dues paying members. I am here before you today to testify neither for nor against of LD 108, “An Act To Establish A Logger Relations Advocate Within The Maine Forest Service.”

According to the Forest Service website, their mission is “To protect Maine's forest resources and homes from wildfire, respond to disasters and emergencies and to enhance the safe, sound, and responsible management of the forest for this and future generations.” To achieve that goal, it is critical for the service to be available equally to all sectors of the industry, including landowners, foresters, loggers, truckers and mills.

Our members work with the department in their role as: regulators (e.g., enforcement of the Forest Practices Act and Fire Regulations); resource data monitors (e.g, Forest Inventory Analysis), and importantly as educators of the public and professionals alike. For example, the MFS has focused on working with all the members of the supply chain of loggers, foresters, landowners and mill wood procurement personnel to support the use of best management practices in the protection of water quality and soil productivity.

In our experience, we have found the MFS to be accessible, professional and responsive to multiple constituencies. That said, we are interested in understanding the intent of this bill. If the Department would find an additional staff person useful, then we are supportive, but we would like to see this staff person equally available for all sectors of the industry.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.