



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 Opposition to LD 177

“An Act To Amend The Authority Of The Public Utilities Commission Regarding Special Rate Contracts”

January 31, 2023

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. I'm Patrick Strauch, the Executive 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 submitting written testimony today in opposition to LD 177, “An Act To Amend The Authority Of The Public Utilities Commission Regarding Special Rate Contracts.”

We understand that Maine PUC has the power to issue protective orders to prevent attorneys from disclosing confidential information that is received from parties during a proceeding. That being the case, we do not see how this legislation adds any further protection, and we are concerned that it may be used to disqualify attorneys from representing future clients.

As this bill could effectively limit our members from seeking the counsel of their choosing, the Maine Forest Products Council is opposed to LD 177.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to provide answers to any questions the committee may have for the work session.