



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Testimony in Support of LD 24

“An Act To Prohibit Open Burning Under A Red Flag Warning And Regulate Recreational Campfires”

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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 in support of LD 24, “An Act To Prohibit Open Burning Under A Red Flag Warning And Regulate Recreational Campfires.”

The stakes are high for all forest landowners during a red flag designation. The remote nature of the northern and Downeast region make fire control regulations important, and we want the Department to have the proper authority in managing fire protection.

Large landowners generally allow open access to their properties in the industrial forest region. However, many of the fires in the region are from uncontrolled campfires.

We work collaboratively with the forest protection division, and in fact, any landowner who owns more than 500 acres pays an annual acreage tax called the Forestry Excise Tax to fund a percentage of the forest fire control activities.

As a Council, we appreciate the Department's desire to protect the north Maine woods from the risk of forest fires and would like to thank Senator Curry for bringing this bill forward.

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

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