



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 Neither for Nor Against LD 180

“An Act to Allow a Person to File a Paper Copy of a Timber Harvest Notification Form”

February 8, 2023

Krysta West, Deputy Director

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker and members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, I am here today to present testimony on behalf of the Maine forest Products Council neither for nor against LD 180, “An Act to Allow a Person to File a Paper Copy of a Timber Harvest Notification Form.”

While considering our position on this bill, we polled a number of members on our Policy Committee regarding the Timber Harvest Notification System. Industrial landowners (representing about 50% of the wood harvested in Maine) initially experienced inefficiencies in adding multiple harvest sites, but they now report ongoing progress with MFS on adding this information into the system.

What we found to be universally true is that when the electronic filing system launched, it presented significant issues for landowners, mill procurement programs, consulting foresters and land management companies. Through the startup process, these sectors report ongoing success in working with the Department to make improvements in the system. Some of our logging companies are discouraged by the process and have little faith that it can be remedied.

The Department staff has shown a willingness to work with user groups during the transition period, and many members report continued system improvements. The Council views the electronic filing system as a move to a more accountable and professional method of submitting required permit data, but we view the system as a work in progress and would encourage the Department to continue to make collaborative improvements with user input to ensure that the system is workable and accessible to landowners and loggers of all sizes. The Council would be happy to help facilitate discussions between the Department and our members to provide such input.

We acknowledge that there is room for improvement and that the MFS is moving in a responsive manner, so we continue to support the move to an efficient electronic platform.

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