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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

March 13, 2023

Patty Cormier, Director
Bureau of Forestry
Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Director Cormier,

We are writing as a follow-up to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) Committee's work session on March 1st for LD 180, An Act to Allow a Person to File a Paper Copy of a Timber Harvest Notification Form. As you know, LD 180 proposes to explicitly allow a landowner or designated agent to submit a harvest notification form to the Department of ACF, Bureau of Forestry in either an electronic or paper format. The committee previously unanimously voted "ought not to pass" on LD 180, but reconsidered the bill and subsequently tabled it on March 1st.

The ACF committee understands that the Bureau has implemented the new online system for harvest notifications to increase access, efficiency, cost savings, ready mapping and resource information for forest practitioners. We also recognize that this change to an online system has been difficult for some landowners, loggers or other designated agents who may not have access to the Internet nor experience with online platforms.

and continue to offer paper copies to those who have difficulty

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We strongly encourage the Bureau to continue to work with all who file harvest notifications and especially those who struggle with the new online harvest notification process. We also encourage the Bureau to continue to work with landowners, foresters and loggers and all those who rely on the forest to encourage an environment that promotes healthy and sustainable harvest practices. Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

*filing
notifi-
cations
online*

Sincerely,

Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

Bill Pluecker
House Chair

*RB
edits*