



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Testimony in Support of LD 607

“Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Examine the Feasibility of Expanding Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley”

March 14, 2023

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and members of the Committee Transportation, my name is Patrick Strauch and I am here on behalf of the Maine Forest Products Council in support of LD 607, “Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Examine the Feasibility of Expanding Interstate 95 to the St. John Valley.”

While we know this issue has been considered previously, we believe a Department review of the issue is timely for a few simple reasons: safety and efficiency. When Rt. 9, the road connecting Washington County to Bangor, was upgraded and improved, it is said that a half hour was shaved off of the time it takes to commute to and from the eastern corner of our state. In addition to the time savings, additional lanes increase safety along this route, and the investment in facilities has made the overall experience of traveling to and from Bangor more enjoyable for commuters and truckers alike.

A study will likely find that expanding the I-95 corridor to the St. John Valley will have similar effects, which could significantly improve our ability to transport forest products from Aroostook County to markets on the eastern seaboard.

For those reasons, please consider supporting LD 607.

Thank you.

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