



# Maine Forest Products Council

*The voice of Maine's forest economy*

## Testimony in Opposition to LD 1411

### **“An Act to Require the Adoption of Sector-specific Greenhouse Gas Emissions Limits”**

April 24, 2023

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I'm Patrick Strauch of Exeter and I'm here before you today to testify on behalf of the Maine Forest Products Council in opposition to LD 1411, “An Act to Require the Adoption of Sector-specific Greenhouse Gas Emissions Limits.”

With more than 90% of our state forested, Maine's status as a regional wood basket puts us in a unique position to meet growing demands for climate-friendly, sustainably managed alternative materials in response to the threat of climate change. From wood fiber insulation to food packaging and biofuels, research and development is evolving, and investments are ensuing to create more ways to replace carbon-intensive materials and fossil fuels with wood-based products. We also have the potential to sequester atmospheric carbon in our growing forests as well as store carbon in durable wood products.

While these opportunities are a critical part of Maine's Climate Action Plan, they are all part of a dynamic carbon cycle occurring at a time when wood markets in Maine are shifting, closing some manufacturing facilities and opening others. Each of these opportunities comes with its own carbon footprint.

As an appointed member of the Governor's Climate Council, we've adopted a strategy based on the guidance of our scientific advisory committee, of establishing baseline information and working towards setting goals in the various sectors. Moving from this approach to one where we are setting caps in the various emissions sectors (and possibly sequestration paths) places the emphasis in a regulatory position that could limit the expansion of existing or growth of new wood manufacturing facilities we want to encourage because air emissions licenses would be limited.

MFPC believes the best approach is to continue the Climate Council work of driving climate solutions through good science, supporting climate smart initiatives and regular reporting of the progress towards reaching our climate goals.

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

#### 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