



# Maine Forest Products Council

*The voice of Maine's forest economy*

## Testimony in Opposition to LD 2099

### “An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects”

January 23, 2024

Krysta West, Deputy Director

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Krysta West, and I am here today to present testimony on behalf of the Maine Forest Products Council in opposition to LD 2099, “An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects.”

Last June, this Committee amended LD 1986, “An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems” to specify that, regarding the newly established Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program, “ratepayer funds may not be used to implement the program or provide funding under the program to distributed solar facilities or energy storage systems.”

Now here we are, less than a year later and before the program is even developed, considering LD 2099, a bill to modify the program to allow for the use of ratepayer funds. This arrangement is not what was agreed upon last year, so the Council is opposed to modifying the program at this time.

As enacted, the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program’s goal is to leverage federal funds to “foster the continued growth of cost-effective distributed solar facilities and energy storage systems in the State.” The Council agrees with the EUT Committee amendment from last year that this should be the revenue source for this program. The amendment struck an important balance between ratepayer interests and renewable energy investments.

Ratepayers in Maine are already under tremendous pressure with energy and T&D costs that are not competitive. As an industry, energy costs are of great concern, both for existing facilities and for companies looking to potentially locate in Maine.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote **‘Ought not to pass’** on LD 2099. Thank you for your consideration.

#### 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