



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Companies represented on the MFPC Board

American Forest Mgmt.
Baskahegan Co.
BBC Lands LLC
Cross Insurance
Family Forestry
Farm Credit East
Fontaine Inc.
Hancock Lumber
H.C. Haynes
Huber Resources
Innovative Natural
Resource Solutions
J.D. Irving
JM Cote Co.
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.
Key Bank
LandVest Inc.
Limington Lumber
Louisiana Pacific
Maibec Logging
Nicols Brothers
Pingree Associates
Pleasant River Lumber
Prentiss & Carlisle
ReEnergy
Richard Wing & Son
Robbins Lumber
Sappi North America
Southern Maine Forestry
Stead Timberlands
TD Bank
Timber Resource Group
Timberstate G.
Verso Paper
Wadsworth Woodlands
W.T. Gardner & Sons
Wagner Forest Mgt.
Weyerhaeuser

Testimony in opposition to

LD 337 An Act To Start a Spring Bear Hunting Season

February 11, 2019

Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau and distinguished members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, I am Bill Ferdinand of Eaton Peabody, representing the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC).

Since 1961, MFPC has represented the broad spectrum of our state's diverse forest products community, including logging contractors, sawmills, paper mills, biomass energy facilities, pellet manufacturers, furniture manufacturers, and the owners of more than eight million acres of commercial forestland in Maine.

MFPC landowners allow open access to our active forest management roads and lands. North Maine Woods collects a fee to manage campsites and user safety in its region. Most of the time, hunting and fishing activities are very compatible with the working forest lands.

However, there is a time of the year in Maine -- spring -- when gravel roads are thawing and saturated ground conditions bring forestry operations to a halt. During these times, logging operations are suspended and trucking is stopped until road conditions stabilize and the danger of destroying roads through rutting is eliminated.

Even light-weight pickups and cars damage soft roads with ruts, cause stream sedimentation, and require expensive repairs. So we ask the public to stay off roads during this time period and people generally respect this request.

A bear hunt in the spring is simply a bad time to promote use of the woods while roads are in an unstable condition. That is why we continue to oppose a spring bear hunt season.

The Council respects the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department's management of bear and other game species. If greater harvest of bears is biologically justified, we would encourage expanding the hunt during established seasons.

We urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 337, and thank you for your consideration.