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**Comments of  
the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
in support of the amended version of LD 39 – *An Act to Require Forest Landowners  
to Report the Registration or Sale of Their Forest Carbon Credits*  
February 4, 2025**

Dear Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

On behalf of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), I am submitting comments in support of Representative Pluecker's amended version of LD 39 – *An Act to Require Forest Landowners to Report the Registration or Sale of Their Forest Carbon Credits*. This bill requires a forest landowner or forest carbon project developer to report the registration or sale of a forest carbon credit to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry, and the amendment streamlines the reporting requirements.

A broad-based community, MOFGA is transforming our food system by supporting farmers, empowering people to feed their communities, and advocating for an organic future. MOFGA certifies 537 organic farms and processing operations representing more than \$120 million in sales. We're working hard to create opportunities for Maine's next generation of farmers. Each of these farmers is a Maine businessperson for whom economic health and environmental health are interdependent. While MOFGA envisions a future of healthy ecosystems, communities, people, and economies sustained by the practices of organic agriculture, we attribute our success to collaboration and outreach to growers across the management spectrum.

MOFGA has an interest in this legislation because most of our farmers and many of our other members maintain woodlots on their properties and are keenly interested managing for soil health and biodiversity as well as profitable yields that support their farm businesses or household economics. Since the late 1990s, MOFGA has run a Low-Impact Forestry (LIF) program. Our LIF community includes loggers, foresters, landowners, farmers and interested persons practicing and advocating for carbon sequestering forest management practices that are ecologically-based and economically-sound. We host workshops year-round covering all sorts of forestry related topics from logging with draft animals to home firewood production, and we participate in collaborative logging projects that explore creative forest management and contracts that benefit both landowner and logger.

As demand for forest carbon credits grows, getting an accurate survey of the impact of the market on Maine's forest industry is increasingly important. Carbon credits are intended primarily to incentivize carbon sequestration, while presenting economic opportunities for landowners and forest managers. While the same carbon credit registries issue credits for other sectors, such as agriculture and energy, Maine's forests have sparked the most interest in carbon credits. Several states have considered creating state registry systems. The approach designed by the Maine Forest Service, with input from the forestry sector, is simple with minimal additional reporting requirements for



landowners, as they already will have gathered the necessary information when first enrolling in carbon projects. The amendment ensures that the bill's core objectives are maintained while making it easier for landowners to participate. The amendment reflects a balanced effort to support both landowner and environmental goals in Maine's forest carbon credit market.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Spalding".

Heather Spalding  
MOFGA Deputy Director