



396 Griffin Rd., Suite 101
Bangor, Maine 04401
TELEPHONE (207) 990-0050 x 2024

Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee

Re: Supplemental Budget, LD 209

Dear Chairs and members of the AFA and ACF Committees,

My name is Mike Jurgiewich. I'm a licensed forester residing in Medway ME. I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of myself and my employer Wagner Forest Management, LTD. Wagner manages a little over three quarters of a million acres of certified timberland across the State from Oxford to Washington counties. Wagner directly employs at this time 15 foresters and support staff that live and work in Maine. Wagner contracts currently with approximately 16 Independent logging businesses which employ well over 100 Maine residents to harvest and deliver wood to mills throughout Maine (both pulpwood and sawlogs).

I'm writing this to show not only my personal support as a Maine resident and taxpayer, but also to convey the support of Wagner as a land manager and employer, for the Part U of this budget which includes the \$2 million to "address the management and early intervention of Spruce Budworm."

As a professional Forester, I was not around for the last outbreak of Spruce Budworm. Over the last 25 years working in northern Maine I certainly have seen the results of what happened to the forest from that time period. As a result of the mortality and salvage harvesting that took place at that time, a lot of acres of forestland in the state regenerated to Spruce and Fir. These stands are now starting to mature and become commercially viable. Unfortunately, these stands are also very susceptible to another outbreak. I have been going to budworm-related trainings and meetings for years now as the forestry community has known that budworm would be coming back soon. One theme that keeps coming up from these, as well as looking back on my forestry education from the University of Maine, is that the overriding science shows that adopting an Early Intervention Strategy (EIS) is the best way to defend against another outbreak of Spruce Budworm and the economic and ecological damage one would cause.

The federal government has appropriated \$14 million for budworm response, with \$12 million of that designated for monitoring and response work in Maine. The proposed budworm response

appropriation under Part U of this budget will signal to the federal government that the State is on board and willing to contribute substantively to this effort. Large landowners in Maine were very active in helping secure the federal funding, and they are committed to providing on-going contributions to implement an effective early intervention program in cooperation with the Maine Forest Service.

An Early Intervention Strategy is vitally important to the future of the forests, forest industry, and rural communities in Maine. Without such a response, we may see a boom and bust cycle, with a period of abundant salvage wood followed by a period with reduced supply available to our mills. Living in the Katahdin region, which lost a big part of its identity when the mills in Millinocket, East Millinocket and Lincoln closed, I would hate to see that happen to more parts of rural Maine.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Jurgiewich', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Jurgiewich
Wagner Forest Management