



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Testimony in Support of LD 95

“An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Wildlife Laws”

Tuesday, January 27, 2025
Krysta West, Deputy Director

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. My name is Krysta West. I am from Readfield, and I am submitting testimony today on behalf of the Maine Forest Products Council in support of LD 95.

There are many different policy measures included in LD 95, but specifically, the Council supports the addition of “or species of special concern” to the confidential information provision included in section five of the bill. Under current law, the location of threatened or endangered species is confidential if the Commissioner deems that disclosure of that information would threaten efforts to preserve that species.

That confidentiality is important to the Department’s recovery efforts, as the habitats that sustain these species are largely privately owned and managed. It also gives landowners the necessary assurances that supporting habitats for these declining species won’t result in heightened public scrutiny and regulation. Keeping the location of these species on private lands confidential also reduces public use of private roads for “scavenger hunts” that can create high impact areas for sensitive species and increase road maintenance costs for private landowners, so it makes sense that this same confidentiality should be extended to species that are of special concern.

Extending this confidentiality clause as suggested enables the Department to proactively work with landowners on conservation efforts to recover populations and hopefully avoid the need for listings all together.

We would like to thank the Department and Representative Cluchey for bringing this bill forward. Please vote ‘Ought to pass’ on section five of LD 95. Thank you.

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