

Elizabeth Navarro
Orono
LD 539, SP 277
6 March 2025

Regarding the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

My name is Elizabeth Navarro. I am a student majoring in Forestry at the University of Maine. I am testifying about extending funding for the land for Maine's future. I have recently learned about land designations and how different forest management strategies can affect their future state, both in classes and at work. In forestry, land management strategies consider what the next landowners will be doing in eighty years. When one company decides to clear-cut an entire stand, it neglects the needs of future generations. Although land use is a cycle of use and reparation—such as cutting down a section of a plot and allowing Maine's white pine natural regeneration to restore the area or re-seeding after a fire—there are still ways that land can be preserved and used in regards to the future. Setting aside regions, sharing land as a part of indigenous reparations, ensuring that recreational areas are still biodiverse and protected despite human traffic. Our state is incredibly renowned for its hiking and outdoor recreation, so setting aside funding to maintain the quality of land to keep recreation available and affordable to all is essential.

I felt the need to testify about this bill because the current state of our country is leaning towards a place where outdoor and environmental research are neglected in favor of more conservative, anti-environment values. There are many signs that the administration does not want to consider what will happen after their term is completed, including excessive signing on fossil fuel drilling and increased tariffs, affecting nearly every U.S. citizen. Our state does not need to follow suit. Economic profits through logging and agriculture are another important part of Maine's current stature and history, and we should continue using those industries. However, we should also continue to consider how land is managed to preserve and designate sectors for future generations to prosper as we have today.

I hope that you will permit the passing of this bill to benefit Maine's forests and future. Thank you for your time and consideration of my message.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Navarro

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LD 593

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