



Testimony of

**DANA A. DORAN
Executive Director**

Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to
LD 750, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 27: Standards for
Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and
Deorganized Areas of the State, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry**

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Dana Doran, and I am the Executive Director of the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast (PLC). The PLC is a regional non-profit organization that represents logging and associated trucking contractors throughout the Northeast, predominately in the state of Maine.

As background, the PLC was created in 1995 to give logging and associated trucking contractors a voice in a rapidly changing forest products industry. As of 2021, logging and trucking contractors in Maine employed over 3,000 people directly and were indirectly responsible for the creation of an additional 2,500 jobs. This employment and the investments that contractors make contributed \$582 million to the state's economy. Our membership, which includes over 200 contractor members in the state of Maine and an additional 125 associate members, is responsible for more than 80% of Maine's annual timber harvest.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of our membership in support of LD 750, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry. The PLC appreciates the sponsor and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) introducing this legislation.

LD 750 is a direct result of the rule-making process that took place in the fall of 2024 regarding Chapter 27. Rulemaking was triggered by statute when a majority of municipalities adopted statewide standards in 2024. Statewide standards are important to the timber harvesting community because they provide consistency of rules for timber harvesting in a shoreland zone from municipality to municipality.

The updated rule before you establishes a state-wide shoreland protection standard for timber

harvesting in the organized and deorganized territories. This standard is now applicable to all shoreland zones in the organized and deorganized territories. Ultimately, this provides consistency for loggers and landowners. These areas are home to a considerable portion of Maine's working forest land that are vital to our state's economic success. This rule ensures that timber harvesting will continue in a way that is mindful of Maine's natural resources.

One of the important roles of a timber harvester is to be a good steward of the land to ensure a thriving and healthy working forest for future generations. The updated Chapter 27 rules do just that by creating uniformity and predictability for logging contractors that work in Maine. Loggers harvesting in these territories will no longer have to worry about irregularities in the regulations when harvesting in different areas of the state.

Again, we want to thank the Department for recommending the rule changes proposed in this bill. While the impact of the new rules will affect some contractors more than others, we believe this is a positive change that will remove inconsistencies when harvesting within a shoreland zone.

I urge the committee to vote ought to pass on the proposed rule changes.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.