



AMERICAN FOREST  
MANAGEMENT

To: The Maine Legislative Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee

American Forest Management (AFM) manages over 1,050,000 acres of forestland for BBC Land, LLC (BBC) in Maine, of which over 800,000 acres fall under the Land Use Planning Commission's jurisdiction. This land ownership provides many jobs in the forest products industry, outdoor recreation opportunities, and numerous other benefits to the State of Maine. I am writing to you today to express that both AFM and BBC have strong opposition to LD 870 – An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

The primary opposition to this bill is that we believe it will restrict the opportunity of the residents, landowners, and businesses in and around the UT to determine their own destiny, and the bill moves in the opposite direction of recommendations made by the Commission on Reform of the Governance of Land Use Planning in the Unorganized Territories in December of 2011, where one recommendation was that *"The retention of a statewide land-use planning, zoning and permitting board for the unorganized territory, with significant representation on the board selected by county governments to assure local / regional input."* These recommendations were made after extensive stakeholder meetings and should not be overturned lightly.

LD 870 does this by:

- Eliminating requirements for the governor's appointee(s) to have a direct connection to the jurisdiction.
- The proposal also increases the number of appointees by the governor from one to five, implements a limit of two terms, restricts the flexibility that is rightfully granted to each UT county to appoint representatives of their choosing, and reduces the time that counties must fill vacancies from 90 days to just 30. If counties are unable to fill a vacancy within the new unrealistic timeframe, they would lose the opportunity to appoint a designee of their choosing and the governor would fill the vacancy instead.

I urge you not to pass this legislation that may take the Land Use Planning Commission back to a place where residents, landowners, and businesses felt their voices were not being heard.

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WE'RE IN THIS  
**TOGETHER**