



Testimony of

**DANA A. DORAN
Executive Director**

Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on
LD 1140, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Strengthen the
Resilience and Growth of Maine's Agricultural Economy**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, 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 educational 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 220 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 1140, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Strengthen the Resilience and Growth of Maine's Agricultural Economy. This bond initiative would provide funding to the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Fund.

The Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Fund, which is overseen by a board of stakeholders, would provide dedicated funding to assist timber harvesting businesses in Maine that is sorely needed. The unpredictability of weather and markets over the last five years has been devastating to the logging industry. As a result, we have seen a steady reduction in capacity and employees and reinvestment has never been at such a low. In conversations with equipment dealers, they are seeing fewer and fewer machines purchased as a result.

The Governor created a Forest Carbon Taskforce in 2021, which was charged with investigating impacts of climate and possible solutions for and from Maine's forests. The PLC had a seat on the taskforce and made recommendations that could positively impact Maine's climate and

logging contractors. To date, we have yet to see some of the unanimously agreed upon recommendations be implemented. We firmly believe the recommendations could be implemented with the resources included in this bond proposal.

The recommendations include:

- A) Support higher level on-the-ground performance to encourage climate-friendly timber harvesting with verifiable outcomes by promoting voluntary use of third-party certified harvesting companies. Third-party certification provides verification that high standards are being met at the point of harvest, by utilizing independent licensed consulting foresters as verifiers, ultimately providing a verification model for landowners that participate in a carbon program and utilize the services of timber harvesting companies.
- B) Provide cost-share resources for contractors to purchase low ground pressure equipment and implement carbon-enhancing best management practices (e.g., portable bridges, culvert pipes, grass seed, hay, skid trail regrading, road relocation, post-harvest stabilization, corduroy, gravel, silt fencing).

In closing, LD 1140 would provide additional resources to important work being done by Maine's heritage industries. This legislation could be game changing to encourage cooperation and collaboration between the public and private sectors in the management of the state's resources. We are thankful for your time and service to the people of Maine and encourage you to vote ought to pass.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.