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LD 1529

I'm writing in support of LD 1529. It's vital that we strengthen protections for Maine's North Woods. Given that older growth forests once covered almost three-quarters of the North Woods and now make up only 3 percent of Maine's Unorganized Territories, we need to act now--or much of what's left will be gone in a few decades.

As someone who lives in a fairly developed town in Maine, I find it's important to escape sometimes to the quiet side of Maine--to recalibrate myself in the midst of acres of forest and undeveloped waterways. Everyone benefits from time spent in these wild places. And there's already too much commercial pressure on these areas.

LD 1529 takes a balanced approach to protect our natural resources: It directs agencies to put into place a statewide conservation strategy and elevates protection through existing programs like Land for Maine's Future and the Land Use Planning Commission's Lake Management Program. We're already losing so much to what the federal government is doing in terms of stripping our country of precious natural resources--please don't let this vital part of Maine become another head on the chopping block.