

**ACF**  
**LUPC Commission**  
**Testimony**

**Senator Ross:**

**Representative Pluecker:**

**Members of the Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Committee:**

My name is Paul Fortin. I live in Embden, Maine. I provide this written testimony in opposition [LD 1529](#), An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide.

I'm both a landowner and forestland trust executor that values conservation, integrity and working collaboratively. This bill does not support these pillars.

- Landowners have demonstrated a long history of supporting research and applying results to improve conservation. Favoring regulation over collaboration has rarely led to innovation. We need to work together to both define and set LSOG goals.
- This bill also seeks to bypass the Land Use Planning Commission process by forcing it to adopt rules to reclassify lakes. This is not fair to landowners, the Commission or the public.
- Reclassifying lakes is a large take. It devalues a landowner's rights and value. Landowners should not be penalized for their past conservation practices but offered incentives.

I hope you will join me in opposition of LD1529