

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1529  
“An Act to Enhance the Protection of High Value Natural Resources Statewide”  
Peter Triandafillou  
4/16/2025

Distinguished members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee, my name is Peter Triandafillou, and I am a resident of Orono. I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1529.

While there are many reasons to reject LD 1529, the most important one is that it is a betrayal of many years of collaborative efforts between landowners, State agencies, certification organizations, and other interested parties. This sweeping bill was written and submitted without a single contact or any input from landowners. Landowners, both large and small, have invested millions of dollars to keep Maine’s private forests healthy and productive. Proposing large changes to the rules governing the private forests of Maine without the slightest consultation with the owners of that resource is unfair and disappointing, especially given landowners’ history of cooperation.

LD 1529 requires the reclassification of potentially many lakes and ponds in the Unorganized Territory (UT). Most lakes in the interior are undeveloped, and many could end up in the most protected status. It should be noted that protected remote ponds have a requirement to limit motorized access within one quarter mile. Landowners of any lakes and ponds reclassified to Remote Ponds that have road access will be forced to decommission or gate roads, resulting in a loss of recreational access. The reclassification of lakes and ponds from Class 7 to a more restricted classification will needlessly result in reduced timberland values. It should also be noted that the bill ignores the millions of acres already conserved in Maine.

LD 1529 defines late successional and old growth (LSOG) forests in statute. This is unnecessary and confusing, as there are multiple definitions in use, especially for late successional forest stands. These definitions make it difficult to incorporate new science in the description of forest stands.

Perhaps if the authors had consulted landowners for input something better may have emerged. Instead, landowners were simply ignored and left out of the process. The result is an unnecessary and harmful bill. I urge you to vote ought not to pass on this badly conceived bill.

Thank you for your time.