BASKAHEGAN COMPANY

My name is Kyle Burdick, Vice President of Baskahegan Company. We own and operate 151,000 acres of working timberland in Washington, Aroostook and Penobscot Counties. In the towns of Brookton, Danforth, Topsfield, Codyville, T11R3, T8R3, Kossuth, Lambert Lake, Forest TWP, Forest City, Bancroft, Orient, Patten and T3R7.

Except for changes to Lake Classifications, we Support LD1529.

In 105 years of operations, we have supported many jobs, but we've also seen many resources lost. The past 50 years have brought thoughtful stewardship to our lands, but we recognize certain ecological values were lost forever. There are many things we don't know about Late Successional and Old Growth Forests, and we have few chances left to learn those lessons.

We support this bill because:

- The impact by its nature is very small
- An insignificant amount of Maine's wood products come from these forests
- The bill provides a pathway to compensation for their protection, which is essential, and a diversification of income to landowners which is desperately needed.
- Positive discussions are being held to include loggers in incentive-based conservation
- Prioritizing LMF funding would benefit the landowners, the public, and the forests
- It builds trust and collaboration between the timber industry and the conservation community
- We don't want to lose these areas!

We feel opposition to this bill is exaggerated and unwarranted. This is an opportunity to showcase what the timber industry can accomplish with the conservation community. Many things in the forest products industry have changed, most of which have nothing to do with regulation, but with poor business practice and the decreasing value of wood. How we do business and what we "grow" and offer to society is changing as well.

Preserved Old Growth is a forest product. Carbon is a forest product. Maple Syrup is a product. With thoughtfulness, there can be room to harvest AND preserve forests. Please support LD1529.

- Kyle Burdick, Vice President, LF 3582