

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD 1529
An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value
Natural Resources Statewide

Testimony submitted by:
Benjamin D. Carlisle, President
Prentiss & Carlisle Management Co., Inc.

April 16th, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pleucker, and distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry.

Thank you for inviting public comments on LD 1529. My name is Ben Carlisle, I reside in Bangor, and I am the President of Prentiss & Carlisle. Our company has provided timberland management services for landowning clients in multiple states and Canadian provinces, but our foundation and the majority of the land we manage has always been in the Maine. This past March we celebrated our 101st year in business, and I represent the fourth-generation family ownership, and some of our clients have owned land since Maine became a state. As you can imagine, we manage our resources for the long term.

However, we strongly **oppose** LD 1529. With this bill, what started as a good faith effort of identifying and quantifying late successional and old growth forests in our state, has now morphed into a regulatory effort in what amounts to a taking of private property rights. All age classes in our forests are managed sustainably, and we favor late successional species where appropriate. In fact, Prentiss & Carlisle's forestry practices are 3rd party certified by two independent certification bodies, both of which include and require criteria related to late successional and old growth forest.

In many ways, this bill would **penalize forest landowners that have tried to do the right thing** for the Maine forest and managed their lands for the long term. Regulating in this manner is not only bad faith but it inhibits our ability to manage the forest appropriately in light of the multitude of threats we now face as forest managers, including invasive species and climate change.

Inexplicably, this bill also attempts to circumvent existing lake management policy by reclassifying nearly all Management Class 7 lakes to either Management Class 1 or 6, which are classes intended for high value lakes with limited accessibility and that largely prohibit development or use changes. The State of Maine undertook a massive effort in the late 1980s and 1990s to develop a set of rules to responsibly regulate lakefront development in large part due to a surge in development demand in the 1970s and 1980s. The Maine Wildlands Lake Assessment and its rankings of every notable lake in Maine are now a part of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and have been relied upon by regulators, landowners, and stakeholders as a predictable source of information and guidance for lakefront management and development. Management Class 7 is a defined management class that specifically includes lakes that have outstanding natural features that should be managed for multiple uses. The 2010 CLUP states, *"It is the Commission's intention that the majority of these lakes remain in Management Class 7 and be managed under applicable requirements"*. Reclassifying Management Class 7 lakes goes against the stated intent in the CLUP as well as the spirit of the Maine Wildlands Lake Assessment and further takes private property rights away from landowners that have responsibly managed their lakefront assets. In short, it penalizes those who have developed slowly.

In summary, we at Prentiss & Carlisle have a successful history of long-term forest management and responsible care of our landowner clients' investments in Maine. We feel LD 1529 would place unnecessary regulation on 3rd party audited forestry and silviculture that we are already practicing, and ultimately amount to a taking of private landowner rights. Therefore, we urge you reject LD 1529 and vote **ought-not-to-pass**.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben D. Carlisle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" and last name "Carlisle" clearly distinguishable.

Benjamin D. Carlisle, President
Prentiss & Carlisle Management Co., Inc.