

MID-MAINE FORESTRY

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Senator Ross, Representative Pluecker, and Members of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee:

I am testifying in support of LD 1724, "Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County."

I have been a consultant forester in Maine for over 45 years, and have worked with staff at Baxter State Park for the past 28+ years in managing the Austin Cary Forest (ACF). We have written two forest management plans, conducted several timber sales, controlled invasive plants, managed for wildlife habitat, and sponsored a number of tours for the public. Managing the ACF has been a challenge for Park staff due to its distance from Park Headquarters in Millinocket. I support this legislation which ENABLES the Park to begin the process of possibly conveying the property to another owner who can continue to uphold the management of the property in accordance with both Governor Baxter's trust and the existing deed restrictions.

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