



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Companies represented on the MFPC Board

A & A Brochu Logging
American Forest Mgmt.
Baskahegan Co.
BBC Land, LLC
Columbia Forest Prod.
Cross Insurance
Family Forestry
Farm Credit East
Fontaine Inc.
H.C. Haynes
Huber Resources
INRS
J.D. Irving
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.
Key Bank
Kennebec Lumber
LandVest Inc.
Louisiana Pacific
Maibec Logging
ND Paper
Nicols Brothers
Pingree Associates
Prentiss & Carlisle
ReEnergy
Richard Wing & Son
Robbins Lumber
Sappi North America
Southern Maine Forestry
Stead Timberlands
St. Croix Tissue
St. Croix Chipping
TD Bank
Timber Resource Group
Timberstate G.
Wadsworth Woodlands
Wagner Forest Mgt.
Weyerhaeuser
Woodland Pulp

Testimony in Support of LD 57

“An Act To Amend Maine’s Endangered and Threatened Species List”

February 6, 2023

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Good afternoon, Senator LaFountain, Representative Landry and members of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I’m Patrick Strauch, the Executive Director of the Maine Forest Products Council. The Maine Forest Products Council is an organization representing more than 300 members from all facets of the forest products industry. We also have more than 8 million acres of dues paying members.

I am here before you today to testify in support of LD 57, “An Act To Amend Maine’s Endangered and Threatened Species List.”

While we do have some concern with how Maine’s Endangered and Threatened Species List can be used in the field to restrict harvesting operations in ways that aren’t unintended during the listing process (on LUPC Protected Mountain Areas [P-MAs] for example), we appreciate the Department’s use of science in making listing determinations and are comfortable with the process that was used in the development of this proposal.

From the stump to the mill, our industry strives to use science-driven methods and processes to advance sustainable forestry with conservation efforts often beginning long before the listing process. Collaborations with the Department, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, UMaine’s Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement and others are evidence of that.

Examples of industry efforts to conserve Maine’s biodiversity include the protection of bald eagle nesting trees, contributions to eagle surveys, conservation of vernal pools, removal of old log drive dams on streams, enhancing brook trout streams with the addition of large wood, retention of dead trees and legacy large diameter trees for birds, bats, and a host of other species, and protection of rare plants and natural communities through consultation with the Maine Natural Areas Program.

In closing, we appreciate the way the Department has handled this process. They proactively shared information and engaged with industry stakeholders as appropriate. We hope to continue this dialogue whenever appropriate moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.