

Testimony of Scott Beal, Environmental & Security Manager for Woodland Pulp in Support of the proposed amendment of LD-698 -An Act to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through the Effective Use of Bridge Fuels.

March 9, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee.

I'm Scott Beal, Environmental & Security Manager for Woodland Pulp, St. Croix Tissue, Inc. and St. Croix Chipping located in Baileyville.

On behalf of the 469 women and men that work at our three companies, I appear before you today in support of the proposed amendment to LD-698, A/A to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through the Effective Use of Bridge Fuels.

Perhaps of little surprise to any of you on the committee, the cost of energy to power our mills is second only to the cost of our fiber supply. We stand in strong support of this measure as it seeks to work regionally and in-state to expand our natural gas infrastructure.

Over the past several years, we have experienced considerable volatility in the pricing of Natural Gas. Coupled with these price swings we experienced is the seemingly persistent regional disparity in pricing when compared to other regions in the U.S.

I've been advised this disparity is caused, at least in part, because of pipeline constraints of bringing the fuel into the state of Maine. That said, it's particularly encouraging to read in Representative Foster's proposed amendment for the Commission to work with other New England States, interstate pipeline operators and other stakeholders to approach this effort collectively.

I'll close at this point and thank you for your time considering my testimony and am happy to try to answer any questions from the committee.

Scott Beal