



William D. Pluecker
1133 Finntown Road
Warren, ME 04864
Phone: (207) 273-3044
Bill.pluecker@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

January 8, 2024

Testimony of Rep. Bill Pluecker introducing
LD 2063, An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Hall and fellow members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. I am Bill Pluecker and I proudly represent House District 44, which consists of the towns of Hope, Union and Warren. Thank you for the chance to present LD 2063, **An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data.**

This is a Department bill that would remove the statutory prohibition on sharing wood processor data, which was given to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) by wood processors, with the USDA. The confidential data include volumes, species, types of wood products and the county of origin. The bill would allow the Maine Forest Services (MFS) to enter into a confidentiality agreement with the USDA Forest Service to limit public disclosure to aggregate data that do not reveal the activities of an individual person or firm.

This bill would enable the USDA Forest Service to include information about Maine's forest products industry based on MFS wood processor data in its Timber Products Output reports. Maine is the most forested state in the nation, but there is often a large gap in the federal reporting of our wood processing. This bill would solve that issue.

I encourage you to save your questions for those from the Department with more knowledge of the ins and outs of reporting data, and I hope you will join me in supporting this bill.

Thank you

District 44: Hope, Union, & Warren