



**APPALACHIAN
MOUNTAIN CLUB**
SINCE 1876

**Testimony of Eliza Townsend, Maine Conservation Policy Director
Appalachian Mountain Club
In Support of LD 39 *An Act to Require Forest Landowners to Report the Registration or Sale of
Their Forest Carbon Credits*
as amended**

Good afternoon, Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker and distinguished members of the ACF Committee, I am Eliza Townsend, Maine Conservation Policy Director for the Appalachian Mountain Club.

AMC is a people-oriented conservation nonprofit representing 90,000 members from Maine to Virginia. Our mission is the protection, understanding, and enjoyment of the outdoors. We have 6,200 members in Maine and own 114,000 acres of forestland in Piscataquis County managed for multiple use, including sustainable forestry, backcountry recreation, and outdoor education. We pay property taxes on all of our land.

We support LD 39, *An Act to Require Forest Landowners to Report the Registration or Sale of Their Forest Carbon Credits* and appreciate the recent amendment. This bill will help to implement Strategy E2 of Maine's updated Climate Action Plan: *develop new incentives to increase forest carbon storage*. The first step in developing such incentives is to ensure that the state has access to accurate and timely data.

AMC holds four carbon contracts. Some apply to land where we conduct climate-friendly management including sustainable timber harvests, some apply to land that is not harvested. One was entered into by a previous landowner. This situation illustrates the complexity of accurately tracking forest carbon projects, and the carbon dioxide emissions absorbed, avoided or removed. Accuracy is, of course, essential to such programs. With the amendment to LD 39 put forward by Rep. Pluecker, we are confident that compliance will not be onerous.

We have seen the impacts of climate change over the past year to 18 months, from the downpours that washed away roads in western Maine in the summer of 2023 to the devastating coastal storms of last winter, to businesses in northern Maine suffering due to last winter's short, disappointing snowmobile season. We know that we must act.

We also know that while Maine's forests absorb 90% of the state's greenhouse gas emissions, they could absorb more through wider use of climate-friendly practices such as LD 39 aims to promote. Access to carbon project data will be essential to tracking the contributions of climate-friendly practices.

This bill represents a modest but important step in Maine's doing its part to fight climate change, and we urge you to support it.