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Testimony of Rep. Nathan Wadsworth on
**LD 798, "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund
Mass Timber Manufacturing"**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Services

April 9, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Representative Nathan Wadsworth and I represent House District 82 which is comprised of the towns of Brownfield, Fryeburg, Lovell, Hiram, and Porter.

I am here today to testify in strong support of **LD 798, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Mass Timber Manufacturing.**

I own a land management company in Cornish, Maine and am a board member of the Maine Forest Products Council. My foresters do great work in Western Maine, providing forestry services and timber harvests. Maine has seen a steady decline in markets for forest products. Without proper outlets, valuable materials are often reduced to wood chips instead of being used for higher-value products like mass timber. This legislation proposes a \$50 million bond to support the design, construction, or retrofitting of a facility in Maine dedicated to producing mass timber using sustainably harvested Maine forest products. This is an investment in Maine's future—economically, environmentally, and structurally.

Mass timber is a rapidly growing sector of the construction industry. Known for its strength, fire resistance, and aesthetic appeal, it is increasingly being used in large-scale residential, commercial, and institutional buildings across the country. Maine is uniquely positioned to become a national leader in this field. We have vast forest resources, a legacy of timber industry knowledge, and a workforce ready to be reengaged and retrained in the technologies of tomorrow.

But without infrastructure to process our timber into mass timber products—such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and glue-laminated timber (glulam)—we risk falling behind while other states capitalize on this growing opportunity. LD 798 changes that. It ensures Maine is not simply a supplier of raw materials, but a leader in value-added wood products that keep jobs, innovation, and economic benefits right here in our state.

This bond is not a giveaway—it is a smart investment. It supports:

- **Job creation** in rural communities;
- **Modern manufacturing** rooted in sustainability;
- **Climate-conscious construction** solutions; and
- **Long-term economic development** tied to one of our most renewable resources.

Moreover, by focusing on sustainably harvested forest products, we reinforce our commitment to responsible environmental stewardship and climate resilience.

I urge this committee and the full Legislature to support LD 798 and position Maine at the forefront of a transformative industry that aligns with our heritage, our workforce, and our values.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me.

Nathan Wadsworth
State Representative