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Testimony in Support of LD-1313, An Act to Promote Equity in the Forest Products Industry by Allowing Commercial Wood Haulers to Be Eligible for Certain Sales Tax Exemptions and Refunds

April 9, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and members of the Taxation Committee:  
My name is Stephen Follette. I am the Fiber Procurement Manager for Woodland Pulp LLC located in Baileyville.

I am very happy to submit this testimony in strong support for what I believe to be a common sense and, frankly speaking, a tax fairness issue for this critical segment of our fiber supply chain.

I understand since 2011, depreciable machinery and equipment purchased for commercial wood harvesting has qualified for a State sales tax exemption or refund. This straightforward amendment in LD-1313 expands the definition of wood harvesting to include equipment and machinery employed for hauling forest products.

With the committee's support and, hopefully, the eventual enactment of this bill, those in the business of transporting forest products will have a better opportunity to remain in business and to reinvest in their companies. Companies that we are totally dependent on to meet our fiber requirements to sustain our operations.

In closing, I am very encouraged to see the bipartisan bill sponsorship and thank them all for bringing this important piece of legislation to the committee for your consideration today. On behalf of the approximately 450 women and men that work at our three companies, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony and ask for your full support in favorably reporting this bill out. I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Follette'.

Stephen Follette  
Fiber Procurement Manager  
Woodland Pulp LLC