



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
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COMMISSIONER

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION, AND FORESTRY**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST LD 1525

An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine

April 17, 2025

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, my name is Morten Moesswilde, and I am the Division Director for the Forest Policy and Management Division of the Maine Forest Service (MFS). I am speaking on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF) neither for nor against LD 1525, *An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine*.

DACF supports the intent of this bill, which promotes firewood banks - local charitable organizations that provide firewood to families in need through donations, grants, and volunteer efforts. Firewood is a renewable, locally available heating resource abundant throughout Maine.

The bill as amended requires MFS to promote firewood banks and develop informational resources.

DACF is committed to enhancing our MFS wood heat information, and some years ago established a dedicated webpage at WoodHeatMaine. We would offer to make improvements such as the following:

- Develop additional guidelines for safe and efficient wood burning practices
- Establish an up-to-date directory of local firewood banks to support community access
- Provide regular updates through our newsletter to keep the public informed
- Add to our extensive resource library with vetted materials and relevant links

Though our page initially focused on diverse heating solutions, including pellets and biomass, we recognize the importance of expanding our firewood-specific content to better address community needs.

DACF is committed to collaborating with the bill's proponents to achieve shared educational and informational goals. However, we do not believe these changes are needed in statute, and would request that the committee consider a Resolve or letter to DACF instead.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I welcome any questions from the committee.