



144 Main Street  
Baileyville, Maine 04694-9656  
207-427-3311

April 17, 2025

**Testimony of Stephen Follette, Fiber Procurement Manager for Woodland Pulp LLC in Baileyville in Opposition to LD-1529, An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-Value Natural Resources Statewide.**

Good afternoon Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker and members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

I'm Stephen Follette and I live in Talmadge. I am the Fiber Procurement manager for Woodland Pulp in Baileyville. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in opposition to LD-1529, An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-Value Natural Resources Statewide.

Please understand, I'm opposing this bill. It's not that I don't believe protecting such natural resources is a worthy objective rather I simply don't see this measure as needed simply because of the long standing and frankly speaking, unmatched stewardship, of the State's forests by our landowner community. These land owners know the rules and they work collaboratively with the Land Use Planning Commission, in following the Comprehensive plan and the Maine Forest Practices Act. All while maintaining significant acreage in well known and long established Forest Certification protocols.

This legislation takes on the mantle of Maine's forestland being essentially devoid of regulatory oversight, which is simply not the case. No matter how one considers the language in this bill, it boils down to an enormous taking of private landowner rights. Last, but certainly not least, is the aspect of this bill that is particularly concerning to me-that being the language that would set the stage for a dearth of future legislative oversight.

In closing, I ask for your vote to oppose LD-1529 and I thank you once again for considering my position on this bill. I am,

Sincerely,

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

Stephen Follette  
Fiber Procurement Manager  
Woodland Pulp LLC