



## Seven Islands Land Company

Testimony in opposition to LD 1529

**An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide**

**April 17, 2025**

**Seven Islands Land Company**

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pleucker and distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry, my name is Hannah Stevens, a resident of Glenburn, and Land Use Director at Seven Islands Land Company. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in opposition to LD 1529: **An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide.**

Seven Islands Land Company manages approximately 820,000 acres of family-owned commercial timberland in Maine, with nearly all of that land in the Unorganized Territory and under LUPC jurisdiction. Seven Islands has submitted additional testimony addressing concerns about other sections of LD 1529, but the focus of my testimony is on Sec. 5 concerning undeveloped, high-value lakes. A quick tally shows that there are 88 lakes on our land base that are currently under Management Class 7. We do not have clarity on how many of those would be reclassified as Class 1 or Class 6 under the proposal.

Our opposition is simple: The Land Use Planning Commission is responsible for evaluation of its lake management program and determination whether updates are needed, and this legislation would go around that process to force it to occur in a sweeping manner. LUPC's process includes opportunity for stakeholder and public input, a critical part of such an evaluation. This process should originate at LUPC's discretion.

For this and reasons expressed in our additional testimony, I urge you to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 1529. Thank you for your consideration.