



April 14, 2025

**Testimony in Opposition to LD-1529 "An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources
Statewide"**

Acadian Timber – Katahdin Forest Management

2025/04/04

We urge you to vote "Ought Not to Pass" for LD 1529

To Agriculture Conservation and Forestry Committee:

Acadian Timber/Katahdin Forest Management manages 300,000 acres in Maine, two-thirds of which is in a working forest conservation easement. These lands have a long history of supporting the communities in Maine by providing raw materials to regional mills and providing recreational opportunities to the public. Since 2011, our lands have been certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) Standard. This certification is a voluntary third-party verification process that helps to demonstrate commitment to sustainable forest management to our customers and the public.

As part of our forestry practices, we prepare long term forest management plans that include 80-year forecasts of sustainable harvest levels, timber supply for mills, forest diversity, carbon storage, silviculture treatments and other forest values. This planning process is a crucial part of our sustainable forest certification. The SFI standard requires participation in regional planning efforts that consider forest health, biological diversity, implementation of best management practice and socio-economic considerations.

Our lands are open to the public except where we have restrictions due to safety concerns associated with timber harvesting. We provide access for snowmobile and ATV trail systems and cooperate with outfitters and community groups. On any given day you may see fishermen, hunters, hikers, campers and other recreationalists enjoying the benefit of access to our lands.

The Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) recently presented their intent to update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) to members of the Maine Forest Products Council. The process will include input from a wide array of stakeholders, including forest owners, and will encompass consideration of old-growth and late successional forests. Additionally, the LUPC process has steps that include passing through the ACF committee and ACF Commissioner before becoming finalized and passing through the Legislature. With the CLUP program about to be kick started, passage of this piece of Legislation seems to be pre-mature or unnecessary. The bill also includes lake reclassification – another item that should be addressed through the CLUP process and only be done in direct consultation with landowners to determine any direct impacts on their individual land use plans.

In consideration of what is already in place through forest certification and the Comprehensive Land Use Planning process, additional prescriptive legislation is unnecessary. Prior to consideration of enacting any new legislation or rules, we believe the Committee should allow the Land Use Planning Commission planning process that will include landowners be allowed to function. Therefore, we urge you to vote "Ought NOT to Pass" on LD 1529.

Sincerely,

Acadian Timber/Katahdin Forest Management

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