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LD 2118 “An Act to Eliminate the Natural Areas Program and Reassign Certain Responsibilities Under the Program to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to Amend the Law Governing Administration of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Resource Management”

Testimony In Support of
Amanda Egan, Executive Director
January 27, 2026

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Amanda Egan, Executive Director of Maine Woodland Owners, speaking today in support of LD 2118.

Maine Woodland Owners is a statewide nonprofit that advances stewardship of Maine’s small woodland resources through the encouragement of sustainable forest management, support for the state’s 86,000 small private woodland owners, and a land trust that conserves working forests.

The Natural Areas Program provides valuable data that assist landowners in their forest management. This bill simply takes a program and moves it from one Department to another, allowing for increased efficiency, streamlined data use, and better coordination of natural resource programs. This in turn will lead to better outcomes on the land.

We would like to thank the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioners and staff for their work in managing this program and ensuring a seamless transition.

We respectfully request that the Committee vote Ought to Pass on LD2118. Thank you for your consideration.