



Prentiss  
& Carlisle

Forest Resource Management and Timberland Services

107 Court Street | PO Box 637 | Bangor, Maine 04402-0637  
(207) 942-8295 | fax: (207) 942-1488 | prentissandcarlisle.com

**RE: LD 2212, Governor's Supplemental  
Budget, Part O**

*Testimony submitted by:*  
**Benjamin D. Carlisle, President**  
Prentiss & Carlisle Management Co., Inc.

February 18th, 2026

The change to the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) program laid out in Part O of the Supplemental Budget came as a surprise to Prentiss & Carlisle and many of our partners in the forest products industry. The sudden and significant decrease to only 50% reimbursement, and the subsequent elimination of the program in 2026, creates a financial hardship for many of the companies we work with and rely on. We therefore are writing today in **strong opposition to this part of LD 2212, Part O.**

All of us are familiar with the foundational importance of forest products to the State's economy. This industry makes large investments in equipment to harvest, transport, and process the wood that Maine produces to meet both regional and international demand. The State has indicated its support of our industry and those capital investments in various ways, including through tax incentives such as the BETR program. Suddenly sunseting this program sends a message that we cannot rely on the State to maintain its commitments in a meaningful way to support the companies investing their own resources, whether it be for a new project or expansion, or for the equipment needed just to keep their business running.

Often the older machinery benefited by the BETR program is the large-scale infrastructure within sawmills and pulp mills that represented an enormous investment, intended to last for decades, and carefully maintained to do just that. The financial planning involved in obtaining, installing, and continuously running that equipment no doubt took tax programs such as BETR into account. The rapid change from 100% reimbursement to zero in two years could be seen as pulling a rug out from under many of the largest players in our industry that function as the hub for all the other elements of the timber supply chain.

A financial hit for any player in the supply chain is a hit for the rest, given the heavily interconnected nature of the forest products sector. At a time when margins are decreasing, every program to support the investments necessary to keep the wood flowing is critical. We ask that you maintain the BETR program as it has been implemented, and continue supporting the companies that are in turn maintaining their own commitments to ensure a strong future forest products economy.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin D. Carlisle, President  
Prentiss & Carlisle Management Co., Inc.