



# Maine Forest Products Council

*The voice of Maine's forest economy*

## Companies represented on the MFPC Board

American Forest Mgmt.  
Baskahegan Co.  
BBC Lands LLC  
Bradbury Forest Mgmt.  
Columbia Forest Prod.  
Cross Insurance  
Family Forestry  
Farm Credit East  
Fontaine Inc.  
H.C. Haynes  
Huber Resources  
Innovative Natural  
Resource Solutions  
J.D. Irving  
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.  
Key Bank  
LandVest Inc.  
Limington Lumber  
Louisiana Pacific  
Maibec Logging  
ND Paper  
Nicols Brothers  
Pingree Associates  
Pixelle Specialty Sol.  
Pleasant River Lumber  
Prentiss & Carlisle  
ReEnergy  
Richard Wing & Son  
Robbins Lumber  
Sappi North America  
Southern Maine Forestry  
Stead Timberlands  
TD Bank  
Timber Resource Group  
Timberstate G.  
Wadsworth Woodlands  
Wagner Forest Mgt.  
Weyerhaeuser

March 16, 2021

Dear ACF Committee members,

LD 125 has stimulated considerable discussion on a variety of topics related to management of Maine's forests. However, it's important to stay focused on the fact that this bill is about the safety of aerial applications of herbicides to forestlands.

The Council prepared the attached document that includes some perspectives provided by Dr. Robert Wagner, who has extensive experience in Maine's forest management issues. He served as the Henry W. Saunders Distinguished Professor in Forestry, School of Forest Resources, and as director of UMaine's Center for Research on Sustainable Forests (his CV is attached).

He now heads the Department of Forestry & Natural Resources and also serves as professor at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. He would be glad to participate in future discussions.

Available for questioning today is **Ray Newcomb, owner of JBI Helicopters**, the firm that has done all of the recent aerial application projects in Maine. He has extensive experience related to aerial herbicide applications throughout the country and can answer any questions you may have about spray boom technology, drift management and GPS computer-guided navigation systems.

Landowner representatives will be participating in the work session and available to answer any questions.

The Council also has provided an analysis of "frequently asked questions" based on references made at the hearing that were clearly out of context and/or misunderstood. For example, a number of speakers mentioned the draft biological evaluation conducted by EPA listing 1,795 threatened or endangered species that should be screened for glyphosate affects. However, only 27 are found in Maine, and most of these species, including seven whales and three sea turtles, are in protected riparian zones.

In 2019, we spent considerable resources in supporting a third-party audit of the application program and we offered tours to ACF Committee members, who were accompanied by the professional forest managers, of herbicide treatments. We have been very open with the ACF Committee and others interested in forest management because we know our operations are professional and conducted with the utmost care for the environment and safety of the public.

We look forward to an informed discussion about LD 125 and would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Strauch  
Executive Director