



April 22, 2021

Re: Oppose LD 1407 – An Act to Provide That a Forestry Operation That Conforms to Accepted Practices May Not Be Declared a Nuisance

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

Thank you for this opportunity to express our opposition to LD 1407.

We have a two-generation family farm in the Unorganized Territory of Central Aroostook County. We have been farming for four decades and grow Maine Certified Seed Potatoes. Like many Maine farms about half of our acreage consists of our woodlot and we harvest it for our own use and for commercial sale.

We are strongly opposed to the concept of crushing democratic home rule so that it may be replaced by a templated-bill invented by the self-serving Koch-funded ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council).

Maine is a relatively large State with great diversity in both geography and environmental conditions. As a result, the citizens in local Towns will know best which practices are appropriate for their locale. It is with those local citizens that the determination should reside of how best to implement measures which protect the environment, conserve soil and guard water quality.

As residents of the Unorganized Territory we are distressed that the leadership of the Maine Forest Service is acting as though it is under capture of corporate forestry interests. We are deeply saddened that MFS is supporting this bill which represents theft of local control. MFS must reverse course and place the interests of the Maine people foremost and ahead of consolidated power.

We vigorously oppose LD 1407 and urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass.

Thank you.

Caleb & Jim Gerritsen

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Caleb Gerritsen and family
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