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Dear Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose LD 1407. There is no good reason to preempt local communities from creating their own locally appropriate policies. Over several decades some municipalities have developed thoughtful environmental policies that go above and beyond "normal forest practices" because they want to ensure protection of local water resources and vegetative cover to prevent erosion, and they want to protect human and environmental health from exposure to toxic chemicals used in forestry and agriculture.

In addition LD 1407 is in direct opposition to LD 125 - An Act To Prohibit the Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate and Other Synthetic Herbicides for the Purpose of Silviculture.

Most importantly, Maine already has laws in place to ensure that communities work respectfully and collaboratively with forest land owners when creating municipal ordinances (12 M.R.S. §8869 (8-9)). Existing requirements include: working with a licensed forester; meeting with the Department and municipal officials to discuss the municipality's forest practices goals; holding a public hearing; providing the Department with 30-day advance notice of the hearing and the opportunity to present at the hearing; providing all landowners in the municipality with 14-day advance notice of the hearing; scheduling a vote on the ordinance at least 45 days after the hearing; and ensuring that the ordinance is not unreasonable, arbitrary or capricious. Given the extensive requirements for any community considering adoption of a forestry ordinance, LD 1407 is superfluous at best, at worst it would undermine local community control.

Maine communities have a right to protect themselves and their surrounding ecosystems from harmful chemicals and extractive industries that pollute the water, cause soil erosion, and threaten wildlife populations. LD 1407 is an affront to democracy, sent to Maine by a lobbying entity that represents the fossil fuel and energy industry, the pharmaceutical industry, the tobacco and alcohol industry, and other out-of-state corporate interests. The ACF should vote to oppose LD 1407.

Thank you