

Norton H. Lamb
New Gloucester, ME
Testimony on LD 736

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, I am a retired businessman and part time farmer from New Gloucester, ME. I own property in Wyman and Lobster townships close to the Bigelow and Spencer Mountain Ecological Reserves.

From my early years, most of my recreational time has been spent in Maine's UT from Skinner to Fort Kent. For the first twenty five years, there were open forests managed by selective cuts performed by small crews with horses and chain saws. Few logging roads penetrated the forests. As a result, most of the forests more closely resembled the woods you now find in the ecological reserves – healthy forests supporting healthy streams and a healthy wood products industry.

I write in support of LD 736. These are my observations:

Climate Change Mitigation: A more mature forest with mixed growth and a robust lower layer sequesters significantly more CO₂.

The reserve's diverse ecosystem will sustain a repository of species to repopulate over harvested working forests when they regain health

Brook Trout Habitat: By restoring stream habitat and lowering water temperatures, the reserves help restore brook trout populations.

Connectivity: While the parcels we have are a step in the right direction, their impact on the endangered species threat is limited without providing corridors to provide food and safety for seasonal migrations.

Vernal pools: The impact of vernal pools extends far beyond their immediate surroundings. Not only are they a key link in the food chain, they are a primary source of soil nutrients to the surrounding forests.

A diverse ecosystem reduces vulnerability to disease, invasives and pests.

A healthy ecosystem slows spring and stormwater runoff to lesson flood risks cities like Millinocket, Bangor and Lewiston.

For these reasons and many others, I encourage you to support LD 736. Thank you.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.