Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry: My name is Samantha Warren and I am the Director of Government Relations for the University of Maine System (UMS). I am writing on behalf of our System's R1 research university in support of LD 2063, *An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data.*

Building on long-standing signature strengths including in forestry, engineering, advanced materials and sustainability, the University of Maine has become a global leader in both forest products research and innovation. For example, in 2016, UMaine partnered in the foundation of FOR/Maine, an industry-driven, cross-sector collaboration supported by federal funding to chart the future of Maine's forest economy. Currently an $8.5 billion industry for Maine, a global market analysis has shown potential for growth to at least $12 billion in the short-term, in large part through university-led innovation to diversify and add value to existing and emerging forest products while increasing efficiencies throughout the supply chain.

Increasing public access to more comprehensive, consistent Maine wood processing data as proposed by LD 2063 would benefit the many stakeholders who are working together to enable this sector to realize its full potential. Specifically, it would enable more accurate state and national modeling, which would strengthen and grow production and trade flows of wood products while still protecting proprietary and identifiable information.

As the Committee is aware, UMaine is also a leader in education, research and partnership to advance climate change mitigation and adaptation. University researchers collaborate with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to estimate and track greenhouse gas emissions, based on the best available information. LD 2063 would improve UMaine's ability to accurately estimate harvested wood product carbon flow, thereby improving the reliability of the information provided to the Department and our common understanding of progress toward, and further policy and investment needed, to achieve the state's goal of carbon neutrality.

We urge your support of LD 2063. Passage would allow Maine to safely share the same data with the U.S. Forest Service that other states already share, and by doing so, strengthen UMaine research and innovation and potentially help attract more public and private investment to our state, all in support of a vibrant and sustainable forest economy.