

Mike St. Peter  
Jackman  
LD 1985

Members of ACF ,

I am writing encourage all of you to oppose LD 1985. I have worked with the forest products industry stakeholders and in particular loggers, for 46 years. All forest certification systems have had a positive effect for industry participants with regards to promoting safety & health of employees, improving environmental practices, and promoting compliance of harvesting regulations.

The training and education have been accomplished with the support and collaboration of insurance companies, federal and state agencies, landowners, mills, and loggers. We all worked together to make this happen and we set the example for many other states.

- For example, we have seen injury and illness rates and associated workers' compensation rates, for Maine's logging sector go from some of the highest in the country back in the 1990, to some of the lowest by a wide margin nationwide.
- Environmental compliance has always been a priority with our instruction and the unbiased monitoring of compliance is critical to move the needle forward.
- Sound business practices are promoted help our Maine industry compete with the rest of the world.

All credentials for the loggers and contractors help to make our industry sustainable. This legislation has unintended consequences.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge all of you to oppose this LD1985.

Thanking you all in advance for your consideration.

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