



## **Testimony in Opposition to LD 1532**

### **An Act To Protect Maine's Air Quality by Strengthening Requirements for Air Emissions Licensing**

Good morning Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and esteemed members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Anthony Hourihan and I represent Irving Forest Products and I am here to speak in opposition to LD 1532.

Irving Forest Products operates 2 sawmills in the State, a spruce fir dimensional lumber sawmill in the Ashland area, and the largest eastern white pine sawmill in the world in Dixfield. These 2 mills employ 395 people directly, and countless others benefit by supplying logs, parts and services to them.

These mills will be heavily impacted by the proposed changes for air emission Licensing as outlined in this bill. The provision that the source of the emission is not in a residential zoned area, or within 1000' of a residence would mean the closure of our Dixfield mill, eliminating hundreds of good paying jobs in Oxford County.

Changing the fines, which today are between \$100 per day and \$10,000 per day to a minimum fine of \$25,000 per day is unthinkable. A minor violation, maybe a report filled 2 days late, with no impact on the environment or human health could cost an operation \$50,000! The bill calls for additional continuous monitoring at the property boundary, and it is unclear what is a "source emission testing system". Currently there are rigorous testing requirements associated with an air emissions license, and these and the requirements for hearings and notifications create a very burdensome system that creates lots of additional administration but offers nothing to improve human health or the environmental impact.

If the intent is to drive business to other jurisdictions and eliminate good jobs in Maine this is a good start!

Thank you for your time today, and I would ask once again to vote ought not to pass on LD 1532.

Anthony Hourihan