

**Testimony of Pleasant River Lumber**  
**In opposition to**  
**L.D. 1532, *An Act To Protect Maine's Air Quality by Strengthening Requirements for Air Emissions Licensing***  
**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**  
**May 3, 2021**

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; I am Steven Hudson, an attorney with Preti Flaherty and I am here today on behalf of Pleasant River Lumber, a multi-generational family-owned business in Maine. Pleasant River Lumber Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates have facilities in Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Hancock, and York counties, including 9 retail locations under the Ware-Butler, Inc. name. Collectively these facilities have nearly 500 full time employees. Over the next two years, the company has announced plans to invest more than \$25 million in manufacturing upgrades and expansion in Maine.

Pleasant River Lumber opposes L.D. 1532. This bill radically changes Maine's air emission licensing laws and will squarely put Maine out of step with federal air emission regulation. It will hurt Maine's businesses who rely on effective and timely regulation by the DEP in order to operate and grow. But it also hurts every other organization who holds an air emission license, including hospitals, colleges, municipalities, and state governmental facilities. For example, this bill increases civil penalties for violations of air emissions standards from a minimum of \$100/day to a minimum of \$25,000/day. This results in potentially massive fines for administrative reports that are only days late.

This bill imposes new burdens and costs on both Maine agencies and licensees by shortening permit renewal terms; requiring a massive increase in the number of formal public hearings, and imposing an incredible burden on licenses by increasing the public notice requirements to everyone within a five-mile radius of the licensee. The bill also prohibits licensed sources from being located within 1,000 feet of a residence; but does not prohibit residences from being located within 1,000 feet of licensed sources. In rural Maine, many of the licensed sources predate nearby residential structures.

The bill also requires all licensed sources to "conduct continuous monitoring along the property boundary where the source of emissions is located." Many licensed sources in rural Maine are located on large parcels, so such a requirement could be incredibly expensive. The DEP has testified that existing regulations already provide the authority to incorporate testing and monitoring requirements where appropriate to determine compliance with applicable emission standards and ambient air quality standards.

For these reasons, Pleasant River Lumber urges the Committee to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1532.