

Testimony opposing LD 1532 An Act To Protect Maine's Air
Quality by Strengthening Requirements for
Air Emissions Licensing

May 3, 2021

Peter Triandafillou, Huber Resources Corp

Distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Peter Triandafillou. I live in Orono, and I am speaking for Huber Resources and J.M. Huber. Huber is a family-owned business, with a timber management firm in Old Town and an oriented strandboard facility in Easton. The Easton plant is an important employer in Aroostook County. I am writing in opposition to LD1532.

LD 1532 will do economic harm, while doing nothing to improve air quality. It increases fines for even minor violations to the point where some facilities could face ruin. Current rules call for fines of not less than \$100 and not more than \$10,000 per day. This allows the Department of Environmental Protection to assess minor fines for minor violations, while giving the department adequate latitude to address significant exceedances. LD1532 raises those fines to not less than \$25,000 and not more than \$100,000 *per day!* This gives DEP no ability to deal with a minor violation. A paperwork error in filing a report could cost a business over \$100,000.

Air emissions licensing requires applicants to meet state and federal requirements for measurable emissions. LD 1532 adds a requirement for undefined steps to protect public health. This creates new burdensome and unknowable requirements that were never intended for emissions licensing.

Current rules already require testing and monitoring, and the use of best practical treatment of emissions. LD1532 prohibits a source within 1,000 feet of a residence or in a residential zone. There is no grandfathering clause, so numerous existing facilities could find themselves unable to run, forcing closures and layoffs. The bill also calls for "continuous monitoring" along the property boundary of the source. This is neither practical nor necessary, as emissions are monitored at the source.

LD1532 increases the burden of new and renewal applications, with notifications to anyone within 5 miles. The term of permits is also shortened, creating unnecessary and costly administrative burdens for both DEP and applicants.

LD1532 will make Maine's forest products facilities, which are an economic engine and important employer, less competitive. It makes Maine less attractive to capital investment needed for maintenance and expansion. It does all this harm without accomplishing any environmental good. I respectfully urge you to vote ought not to pass on this destructive bill.

Thank you for your time.