



WOODLANDS
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Testimony on LD 1202

Good morning Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and the esteemed members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning in support of LD 1202. My name is Anthony Hourihan, and I represent Irving Woodlands and Irving Forest Products. We own and manage approximately 1.3 million acres of timberlands in the County, and these lands provide products to our spruce fir dimensional lumber sawmill in the Ashland area, and the largest white pine sawmill in the world in Dixfield.

Every log we put in our mills yields 3 broad product streams, 1/3 becomes lumber, 1/3 becomes wood chips used in pulp and paper mills, and 1/3 becomes bark and sawdust. In recent years we have lost markets for these bark and sawdust residues as older power generating plants have closed, and the explosion at the Pixell mill has had an impact as well. This bill would allow these sawmills to continue to maintain important rural jobs by converting these residues into electrons.

Combined Heat and Power plants utilizing wood produce renewable power, which is a critical topic as we work at impacting climate change in the State. Unlike most other sources of the renewable power portfolio in the State, CHP plants produce dispatchable power when the wind is calm and the sun sets.

The CHP plants that this bill promotes would support the local jobs that exist in the logging, trucking and sawmilling operations, and create new jobs in the boiler and powerhouse at these sites, and potentially allow an expansion of the workforce to utilize in woods biomass. The local community benefits are substantial versus buying power from other sources.

It is important that these be long term 20 to 25 year contracts to allow interested parties to gain financing for these multimillion dollar investments. Passing this bill and getting the process started is important as even projects that are ready to proceed will need to procure equipment and have the construction completed.

Again, I urge you to vote **Ought To Pass on LD1202**.

Thank you for your time!
Anthony Hourihan
Director Land Development