



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Companies represented on the MFPC Board

American Forest Mgmt.
Baskahegan Co.
BBC Lands LLC
Bradbury Forest Mgmt.
Columbia Forest Prod.
Cross Insurance
Family Forestry
Farm Credit East
Fontaine Inc.
H.C. Haynes
Huber Resources
Innovative Natural
Resource Solutions
J.D. Irving
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.
Key Bank
LandVest Inc.
Limington Lumber
Louisiana Pacific
Maibec Logging
ND Paper
Nicols Brothers
Pingree Associates
Pixelle Specialty Sol.
Pleasant River Lumber
Prentiss & Carlisle
ReEnergy
Richard Wing & Son
Robbins Lumber
Sappi North America
Southern Maine Forestry
Stead Timberlands
TD Bank
Timber Resource Group
Timberstate G.
Wadsworth Woodlands
Wagner Forest Mgt.
Weyerhaeuser

Testimony supporting LD 730 An Act To Protect Economic Competitiveness in Maine by Extending the End Date for Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits

March 23, 2021

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and distinguished members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, I am Patrick Strauch, executive director of the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC).

Since 1961, MFPC has represented our state's diverse forest products community, including logging contractors, sawmills, paper mills, biomass energy facilities, pellet manufacturers, furniture manufacturers, and the owners of more than eight million acres of commercial forestland in Maine.

MFPC strongly supports LD 730 because the Pine Tree Development Zone (PTDZ) program has helped many forest products companies invest in their businesses and their employees, including:

- Huber Engineered Woods
- Irving Forest Products
- Louisiana Pacific Corp.
- Maine Woods Pellet Co.
- Maine Wood Turning
- Maine Woods Company
- Maine Woods Pellet Co
- Pleasant River Lumber Co.
- ReEnergy
- Robbins Lumber
- St. Croix Tissue
- Woodland Pulp

There have been improvements in the PTDZ in the past few years that have clarified the program's goals and helped assure that jobs are created as cited in the 2020 Pine Tree Development Zones – A Limited Scope Review,¹ Many forest

¹ More info from OPEGA report: <http://legislature.maine.gov/doc/4702>

sector activities are targeted for use in the PTDZ program, including advanced technologies for forestry, composite materials technology, and biotechnology among the opportunities available based on Maine's "current strengths, global demand, and the potential for job creation."

In addition to help from PTDZ, the forest products industry has been working to reach those goals through the Forest Opportunity Roadmap ([FOR/Maine](#)), a collaboration between industry, communities, government, education, and non-profits. The industry has an ongoing partnership with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), Maine & Company and the University of Maine to reach out to global forest products investors.

Forests and forest products play an important role in the Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029² and also our state's economic recovery from the pandemic.

"Maine has an opportunity to advance industry-led, public-private initiatives that grow key innovation sectors, such as seafood and agricultural product processing, forest products, bioproducts and renewable energy, and agile manufacturing," the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee reported.³

In the past several years we have seen a billion dollars of investment in Maine forest product companies and there is tremendous opportunity to grow our industry if we can leverage our strong assets, including a trained workforce, sustainably managed forests and our proximity to a growing market for environmentally friendly wood products.

The continued availability of the PTDZ program is an important part of the forest industries opportunities for growth and expansion.

We encourage the discussion about determining appropriate metrics for the program and support the extension of the Pine Tree Zone benefit.

Please vote ought to pass on LD 730.

Thank you for your consideration

² https://www.maine.gov/decd/sites/maine.gov.decd/files/inline-files/DECD_120919_sm.pdf

³ https://www.maine.gov/future/sites/maine.gov.future/files/inline-files/Maine%20ERC%20Report_FINAL_11242020.pdf