



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 1439 An Act To Clarify All-terrain Vehicle Registration Requirements and Establish Regular Maintenance of Designated State-approved All-terrain Vehicle Trails

April 21, 2021

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director

Senator Dill, Representative Landry and distinguished members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, I am Patrick Strauch from Exeter, Maine, and the executive director of the Maine Forest Products Council (MFPC). I represent Maine's forest product industry, which represent more than \$8 billion in economic contribution to the state's economy, and more than 33,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Since 1961, the Maine Forest Products Council 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 believes registration fee increases for providing trail maintenance are long overdue.

LD 1439 would increase registration fees by \$25 for each type of registration:

- Resident season registration: From \$45 to \$70.
- Nonresident 7 day registration: \$75 to \$100.
- Nonresident season registration: \$90 to \$115.

Without the proposed fee increase, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) would continue to struggle to properly manage the thousands of miles of trails throughout Maine.

Most of the trails that exist today are on private land. They are maintained by a small group of well-meaning volunteers and do not receive the maintenance required due to lack of funds or knowledge of Best Management Practices.

Our members have shared the costs on several projects in recent years, such as improvements in water crossings and maintenance in some areas, only to see trails regress when club leadership changes or volunteers and/or funds dwindle.

Private landowners should not have to repair property damage due to ATV trail users. The popularity of ATVs has grown too much to continue to operate a state program based on volunteers, an inadequate budget and the good will of landowners, especially when private lands bear the brunt of the damage to infrastructure and often the liability of environmental damage.

We urge you to vote **Ought to Pass** on LD 1439.