



## **Testimony of**

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**Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor to LD 61, An Act to Regulate  
Employer Surveillance to Protect Workers  
Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, my name is Dana Doran, and I am the Executive Director of the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast (PLC). The PLC is a regional non-profit organization that represents logging and associated trucking contractors throughout the Northeast, predominately in the state of Maine.

As background, the PLC was created in 1995 to give logging and associated trucking contractors a voice in a rapidly changing forest products industry. As of 2021, logging and trucking contractors in Maine employed over 3,000 people directly and were indirectly responsible for the creation of an additional 2,500 jobs. This employment and the investments that contractors make contributed \$582 million to the state's economy. Our membership, which includes over 200 contractor members in the state of Maine and an additional 125 associate members, is responsible for more than 80% of Maine's annual timber harvest.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of our membership in opposition to LD 61, An Act to Regulate Employer Surveillance to Protect Workers. From our perspective this bill is a clear example of government overreach into a private business. An employer has a right to monitor their employees and equipment without having to notify the employee.

The logging industry has different forms of surveillance that are used daily and are equipped for a different purpose. For example, there are telematics on pieces of harvesting equipment that can show exactly how long a piece of harvesting equipment has been running, when it started, where it has traveled in the woods or if it is

experiencing malfunctions. The telematics equipment is used as a tool for logging contractors to keep an eye on their machinery to determine if the operators and machinery harvesting in remote areas are working efficiently. Technology in logging equipment has grown exponentially over the last 20 years, unfortunately so has the cost. A single harvesting processor costs about \$750,000 and employers use surveillance as a tool to help protect their investment and ensure its operation.

Other forms of surveillance include video monitoring of facilities and equipment, remote access weight scales for wood delivery and automated building/equipment access devices. These are crucial for safety, access, risk management and insurance purposes. As the legislation is currently written, all of these devices would be banned, or the employer could be held liable if they didn't disclose their use to all company employees.

It is important to emphasize that not all surveillance is meant to invade the privacy of an employee or watch over them like "big brother". There is a purpose for each application. The majority of our member companies are small family-owned businesses that employ less than 10 employees in rural areas. If there was an issue with a company being invasive with technology, they would struggle to hire and retain employees. In an industry like logging that struggles to find and train employees, owners can't afford to be tyrannical when operating their businesses. Employers in this business must also find creative ways to provide access and services in remote areas where technology is more efficient use than having limited employees stationed at all times.

I am respectfully asking you to vote ought not to pass on LD 61. Surveillance is used in the logging and trucking industry as a tool to help protect business owners' investment in their equipment and provide access, so please don't restrict the use of that tool.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

Dana Doran  
Executive Director