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**Testimony of Michael Roland, Bureau of Labor Standards, Maine Department of Labor
In Opposition to LD 1724, An Act To Create a Logging Dispute Resolution Board and To Require Proof
of Ownership Documents To Be Available within 14 Days of Request**

To the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing
Public Hearing, Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Senator Daughtry, Representative Sylvester, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Michael Roland and I am the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards at the Maine Department of Labor. On behalf of the Department, I am offering this testimony in opposition to LD 1724, *"An Act To Create a Logging Dispute Resolution Board and To Require Proof of Ownership Documents To Be Available within 14 Days of Request"*.

There are a few distinct components to this bill, and we will address them separately.

First, we see no problem with the reduction from 30 to 14 days of the time within which proof of equipment ownership must be submitted by an employer applying for temporary foreign ("bond") workers in a logging occupation.

Second, the component involving federal cabotage laws is outside of our jurisdiction and thus not a subject on which we are particularly qualified to comment.

Lastly, the bill would establish within the Department a Logging Dispute Resolution Board to hear disputes on various issues in the logging industry. As we have no special expertise regarding the nature and extent of disputes requiring resolution in the logging industry, other than those involving complaints and violations of employment law in general, it is difficult for us to assess the need for this Board. We do, however, have several questions and concerns about this provision of the bill. Overall, while the Board is ostensibly granted powers "necessary to carry out its functions," it is unclear what those functions are. Our more specific concerns include:

- There is no mandate for parties to appear before the Board,
- We see no clear authority to render or recommend decisions,
- There is no provision for appeals of those decisions,
- Similarly, there is no provision for judicial review of those decisions, and
- There is no apparent enforcement mechanism.

Other questions and concerns regarding the operation of the Board would more immediately affect the State Board of Arbitration and Appeals, and we understand that Maine Labor Relations Board Executive Director Daly will express them in separate testimony.

For these reasons, we are opposed to LD 1724 and urge you to vote ONTP.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony. A representative from the Department will be available to participate in the work session, when scheduled.