

SECURE THE FUTURE OF MAINE'S FORESTS

LD 993 will create a Forest Advisory Board to support stakeholder input on forestry practices.

Maine's forests are a resource of global importance.

- Maine's 17.5 million acres of forest absorb 60% of the state's annual greenhouse gas emissions, support the Pine Tree State's \$8.5 billion forest products industry, and contribute to the \$3 billion recreational sector.
- Our forests also shelter 139 rare plants and animals, including 21 globally rare species, and hold the largest Globally Important Bird Area in the United States.
- Because they are big and largely unfragmented, Maine's forests have an outsized role to play in mitigating and adapting to climate change and in ensuring continued biodiversity, two of the most pressing issues facing the world today.



Photo: Charles F. Dingman

We can no longer afford to take our forests for granted.

- Climate change is here, affecting our communities, our livelihoods, our daily lives – and our forests.
- Maine's forests face multiple threats, including climate change, drought, and fire; insects and disease; changing ownership patterns and changing markets for wood products; and conversion to development.
- We lose 10,000 acres of forest every year to development. This contributes directly to the loss of biodiversity – the variety of animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms that form ecosystems and support life on Earth. For example, North America has lost 3 billion birds since 1970, and insect populations have dropped by 40% worldwide.



We need all hands on deck to keep our forests intact and healthy for years to come.

- A Forest Advisory Board would bring together a variety of viewpoints – loggers and biologists, commercial landowners and indigenous tribes, sportsmen and ecologists – to share information, facilitate public input, look at the forest comprehensively, and advise the Maine Forest Service on policies to keep our forests healthy, intact, and productive.

- This strategy could help defuse tensions among stakeholders with different viewpoints.
- At least 15 other states, including neighboring New Hampshire, have such Forest Advisory Boards.
- A Forest Advisory Board would join more than 90 advisory bodies already in place across Maine state government including the Department of Marine Resources Advisory Council, the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council, the Maine Climate Council, and the Water Resources Planning Committee.

Support LD 993. Secure the future of Maine's forests with a Forest Advisory Board.

For more information, please contact

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Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is a partnership of 37 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 120,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so all Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

