

SECURE THE FUTURE OF FORESTS IN MAINE

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

The forests in Maine are a resource of global importance.

- Maine is home to 17.5 million acres of forest that 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 \$2.8 billion recreational sector.
- Forests in Maine also shelter 139 rare plants and animals, including 21 globally rare species, and hold one of the largest Globally Important Bird Areas in the United States.
- Because they are big and largely unfragmented, forests in Maine 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.



Image: Charles F. Dingman

We can no longer afford to take forests for granted.

- Climate change is here, affecting communities, livelihoods, daily lives – and forests.
- Forests in Maine face multiple threats, including climate change, drought, and fire; insects and disease; changing ownership patterns and changing markets for wood products; conversion to development and parcelization.
- 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 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.
- More than 90 advisory bodies are 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.
- The Legislature passed LD 993 last year and placed it on the special appropriations table with a modest \$5,000 fiscal note. Full funding is essential to securing the future of forests in Maine.

Support LD 993. Establish a Forest Advisory Board to protect forests in Maine.

For more information, please contact
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Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is an inclusive statewide alliance of 34 conservation, climate action, and public health organizations. Each year we collectively identify a slate of policy priorities to act on the climate crisis, further environmental justice, protect land, water, and wildlife, and cultivate healthy Maine communities.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to protect the extraordinary environment so all people and communities in Maine can thrive.



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Conservation
Law Foundation



BICYCLE
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Friends of Casco Bay
CASCO BAYKEEPER



Immigrant Welcome Center
GREATER PORTLAND

Gateway Community Services Maine



Solutions for a
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APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB



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Environmental
Education
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MAINE
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Science for a healthy planet and safer world

