



Seven Islands Land Company

Testimony on LD 1801

An Act to Modify Exemptions for Certain Storm Water Discharges to Class AA and SA Waters

January 11, 2022

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Daniel LaMontagne, President and CEO of Seven Islands Land Company, and I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of LD1801.

Seven Islands Land Company manages approximately 820,000 acres of family-owned commercial timberland in Maine, and we are dual-certified under both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) forest certifications. We have manufacturing facilities in northern Maine, producing hardwood lumber and chips, and until 2017, we also operated a hardwood flooring facility which sits along the Machias River in Ashland. We are currently fostering a partnership with Original Mass Timber Maine with a long-term goal of repurposing our Ashland facility by converting it to produce a climate and carbon friendly mass timber product known as structural round timber. We are also currently in the process of a two-phase settling pond project that will increase clarity of any stormwater leaving the premises.

Regulatory certainty is crucial to encourage investment in existing facilities and also to the return of job opportunities in the region. LD 1801 is a common-sense approach which brings stability to the issue of stormwater discharge regulation on these sites and peace of mind to existing manufacturers. Maine DEP has coordinated with the U.S. EPA to resolve any regulatory issues and narrow the exemption, as requested by the EPA.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on this important bill that all seem to agree is a welcome resolution to this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel J. LaMontagne
President and CEO, Seven Islands Land Company