



## **Testimony of**

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**Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor to LD 60, An Act to Allow  
Employees to Request Flexible Work Schedules**

**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 60, An Act to Allow Employees to Request Flexible Work Schedules. The PLC also testified in opposition to LD 938 in the 130<sup>th</sup> and LD 827 in the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislatures and our position has not changed.

Most logging and trucking firms in Maine are family-based businesses that pride themselves on providing stable places of employment. They are committed to their rural place and the people that work for them. It is not in their best interest to rule with an iron fist and not work with their employees to accommodate schedule requests. If they did, this reputation would precede them, and it would be impossible to retain employees.

There is nothing outlined in the bill that businesses cannot already do, and the legislature should not be legislating how business owners run their businesses. The extra administrative procedures are a mandate that Maine's small businesses, especially those in logging and trucking, simply cannot afford.

Maine is facing a shortage of loggers and log truckers that will grow and could hinder the growth of the \$8 billion forest products industry in the state if bills like LD 60 become law. Employers in logging and trucking accommodate schedule changes all the time and there is nothing in this bill that will help them remain profitable or viable places of employment in rural Maine. Adding further statutory requirements will only add administrative burden, expense and frustration to a small business community that can't afford further red tape and bureaucracy.

Again, I am respectful of the sponsor's intent, however this is not a productive piece of legislation and should not move forward, similar to the last two bills with identical titles. I encourage you to vote ought not to pass on LD 60, and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

Dana Doran  
Executive Director