



# Maine Forest Products Council

*The voice of Maine's forest economy*

## Companies represented on the MFPC Board

American Forest Mgmt.  
Baskahegan Co.  
BPC Lands LLC  
Cross Insurance  
Family Forestry  
Farm Credit East  
Fontaine Inc.  
Hancock Lumber  
H.C. Haynes  
Huber Resources  
Innovative Natural  
Resource Solutions  
J.D. Irving  
JM Cote Co.  
Katahdin Forest Mgmt.  
Key Bank  
LandVest Inc.  
Limington Lumber  
Louisiana Pacific  
Maibec Logging  
Nikos Brothers  
Pingree Associates  
Prentiss & Carlisle  
ReEnergy  
Richard Wing & Son  
Robbins Lumber  
Sappi Fine Papers  
Southern Maine Forestry  
Stead Timberlands  
TD Bank  
Timber Resource Group  
Timberstate G.  
Verso Paper  
W.T. Gardner & Sons  
Wagner Forest Mgt.

October 13, 2017

David Bernhardt, commissioner  
Maine Department of Transportation  
16 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

**RE: Support for Maine Department of Transportation Maine Department of Transportation's project to connect I-395 to Route 9.**

Dear Commissioner Bernhardt,

Since 1961, the Maine Forest Products Council, a not-for-profit trade association, has represented the diverse needs of Maine's forest products community. We speak for logging contractors, sawmills, paper mills, biomass energy, facilities, pellet manufacturers, furniture manufacturers, and on behalf of more than nine million acres of commercial forestland in Maine.

Maine's forest products industry has an \$8.5 billion impact on our state's economy, according to recent research by the University of Maine.

Safe, reliable transportation is essential not only for our industry, but for the communities through which our workers, trucks and products travel.

That's why we strongly support Maine's application for an Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant. Route 9 is a key road for both wood flow and product delivery. The connector would certainly save transportation time and money for our state's forest products industry, which is struggling to compete in global markets.

Most important, the connector would greatly improve safety, both for our truck drivers and other drivers with whom they currently must share congested urban roads.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick J. Strauch".

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director