



Maine's North Woods

Conserve Maine's Natural Legacy for Future Generations by Ensuring the Integrity of the Land Use Regulation Commission

Our jobs, our health, our recreation activities, and our identity as Maine people all have their roots in our water, woods, and wildlife

The North Woods are a treasure that is central to Maine's economy, identity, and way of life

- The North Woods is the largest remaining forest in the east, vast enough to provide wildlife habitat, timber for the forest products industry, and myriad tourism and recreation opportunities including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling, snowmobiling and white-water rafting
- The woods, water, and wildlife of the North Woods bring Maine good jobs and new opportunities for economic growth



Without careful governing, planning, and regulatory tools, the North Woods are at risk

- Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) is the agency charged with planning, permitting and enforcing standards to protect what is special about Maine's North Woods while respecting local and regional needs
- The loss of LURC's collaborative, citizen-based oversight could undermine efforts to retain Maine's North Woods as forestland, protect wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and steer development to the most appropriate places
- The LURC study committee proposed a number of changes that will help improve LURC's effectiveness

While the LURC study committee wisely backed away from abolishing LURC, some of the task force's proposals could significantly weaken protections for Maine's North Woods

- The LURC study committee's proposal would allow county commissioners to appoint themselves to the board without the normal process of gubernatorial nomination, legislative committee hearing, and Senate confirmation. This sets up inevitable conflicts, limits the pool of strong candidates, and places commissioners with no experience in land use planning on this important decision-making body
- The proposal would allow counties to "drop out" of the unified system that consistently applies to the entire North Woods, resulting in a loss of LURC's one-stop land use planning, zoning, permitting, and enforcement in the region and leading to a hodge podge of inconsistent, fragmented complicated systems that are far more unpredictable, inefficient, confusing, and expensive for applicants, landowners and the public



We must not weaken the key protections that safeguard Maine's North Woods

- We urge the Legislature to reject legislation that reduces oversight over LURC commissioners, allows counties to drop out of LURC now or in the future, or otherwise rolls back existing protections

Reject Legislation to Roll Back Protections for Maine's North Woods

For more information, please contact Cathy Johnson at 207-430-0109 or cjohnson@nrcm.org

Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 27 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides for all of us.

American Lung Association of Maine
Appalachian Mountain Club
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Environment Maine
Environment Northeast
Friends of Casco Bay
Maine Audubon
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Congress of Lake Associations
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited
Maine Conservation Alliance
Maine Interfaith Power and Light
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Rivers
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Product Policy Institute of Maine
RESTORE: The North Woods
Sierra Club Maine
The Ocean Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Toxics Action Center