

Ideas for Recommendation from the Panel on Optimizing Wood Harvesting in Maine¹

Panel Vote	Item	Preventing over exploitation	Encouraging Use that has the greatest economic benefit	Leveling the playing field among wood purchasers	Promote sustainable management	Increase Supply
Agree: 8 Disagree or Abstain: 6	1. Refine Maine’s Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit for behind the meter production of electricity: • Fuels from certified managed forests • A productive use of the waste heat (existing plants could be given a period of years to comply) 	•	•	•	•	
Agree: 9 Abstain: 1 Disagree: 3	2. Advocate for similar RPS standards in the other ISO New England states (the New England Governors’ Conference could be used as a venue for advocacy to the other governors)	•	•	•	•	
Agree: 8 Abstain: 1 Disagree: 4	3. Charge biomass electricity producers in Maine a system benefit charge used to promote energy efficiency improvements and sustainable forest management – producers that adhere to the standards articulated above for Maine’s refined RPS would be exempt from the charge	•	•	•	•	
Agree: 5 Abstain: 1 Disagree: 7	4. Require a wood supply analysis for all new wood users and link regulatory approval with a finding of surplus fiber or great public benefit from the proposed use – an impact analysis	•	•			
Agree: 9 Abstain: 0 Disagree: 4	5. Send landowners information on the proportion of wood products they should expect from typical harvests of various sorts (size and quality of timber, species, silvicultural system, etc.)		•			
Agree: 0 Abstain: 0 Disagree: 13	6. Send the Maine Forest Service copies of trip tickets and scale slips so an analysis can be conducted of whether or not suboptimum use is a significant problem		•			
Agree: 3 Abstain: 1 Disagree: 9	7. Require that landowners sign off on harvests that have a high proportion of low value products unless harvested by a third party certified logger. (Note – This is not likely to be an issue at times of the year when mill yards are typically full – e.g., mud season)		•	•		
Agree: 0 Abstain: 0 Disagree: 13	8. Unless the landowner agrees otherwise, require that landowners be paid for highest and best use of materials that is practicable (considering markets, transportation distances and costs at the time, etc. [Note – Highest and best use will vary over time as markets change])		•	•		

¹ These items are conceptual only. It is recognized that each item must be described in detail prior to the Panel’s final approval for recommendation for inclusion in the report.

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Agree: 13 Abstain: 0 Disagree: 1	9. Provide incentives for landowners to hire a forester (e.g., a tax write-off for the expense) (Tie with standards for foresters to practice sustainable forestry to demonstrate public benefit)		•	•	•	
Below items were voted on by Panel members with limited discussion. These items will be discussed further at subsequent meetings.						
Agree: 9 Abstain or Disagree: 5	10. Support Representative Michaud's bill to provide a federal production tax credit for behind-the-meter electrical production		•			
Agree: 5 Abstain or Disagree: 9	11. Provide tax incentives for individuals and businesses to convert to wood heat		•			
Agree: 0 Abstain or Disagree: 14	12. Provide tax incentives for wood-using industries that do not use wood for energy products (e.g., solid wood products and pulp vs. pellets, electricity, ethanol and other fuels)		•	•		
Agree: 9 Abstain or Disagree: 5	13. Encourage wood-using industries that use wood to produce energy products to procure their wood from sustainably managed forests (Note – This would be redundant if ideas 1 and 3 were pursued; but if not, could be encouraged by a resolution in the Legislature)			•	•	
Agree: 12 Abstain or Disagree: 1	14. Provide incentives for loggers to invest in equipment that can expand supply					•
Agree: 12 Abstain or Disagree: 1	15. Provide incentives for active forest management on small ownerships (e.g., eliminate the federal rules on passive losses for small landowners and others?)					•
Place on hold pending results of Logger's Congress	16. Implement recommendations forthcoming from the Loggers Congresses					•
Eliminate: Same as Item 15	17. Provide incentives for more productive forest management (e.g., eliminate the federal rules on passive losses for small landowners and others?)			•		
Agree: 0 Abstain or Disagree: 14	18. Establish a charge for companies that produce process steam from fossil fuels and use the proceeds to provide a tax incentive for using wood fuels for the same purpose and energy efficiency projects			•		

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No need to vote. FIA will be continued.	19. Continue the Forest Inventory & Analysis Program	•				
Agree: 13 Abstain or Disagree: 1	20. Develop an accurate model for predicting future timber supplies	•				
Agree: 12 Abstain or Disagree: 1	21. Provide more frequent and more robust reports on the value of stumpage		•			
Agree: 9 Abstain or Disagree: 4	22. Encourage siting of new wood-using mills in places where there is excess supply (Note – This would be redundant if idea 4 were pursued; if not, it could involve advice? Tax incentives? e.g., Pine Tree Zones or Tax Increment Financing [TIFs])	•	•			
Agree: 9 Abstain or Disagree: 4	23. Provide incentives for the most efficient uses of wood for the production of electricity, e.g., combined heat and power vs. condensing power (Note – This would be redundant if ideas 1 and 3 were pursued)		•			
Not voted on	24. Document on the Forest Operations Notification those times when demand is high for round wood. Thus, informing the landowner of those times when the highest and best value is generally round wood, as opposed to biomass. This would provide the landowner with a reference for demand that could help the landowner make an informed decision on where the wood is going. This might also help round wood mills with their supply issues at times during the year		•			
	25. Other?					