

Logging clarification

A recent story appearing in the BDN regarding the governor's position on LD 1383, "An Act to Improve the Process by Which Logging Contractors Hire Legal Foreign Workers," needs clarification. The article stated that the administration supported the bill because it cuts "bureaucracy and red tape that restrain businesses and make them less competitive."

That is true. However, given the highly charged nature of this issue with Maine loggers, I feel it important to share with your readers the full sentence of my testimony: "The administration has pledged its commitment to reducing bureaucracy and red tape; that said, nothing will stand in the way of seeing that Maine people are put back to work as soon as possible and that they are given preference for all available jobs in this — or any other — industry."

The real issue here is getting unemployed Maine loggers connected with available jobs while not penalizing businesses who clearly want to hire them. We are dedicated to doing just that.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the news report.

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