

in the woods because, frankly, they're more productive." He continued, "They work harder. They complain less."

Maine has a national reputation for having one of the most highly productive workforces in the country. If Maine loggers want to work in the Maine woods, they should have a priority over foreign labor.

Maine taxpayer dollars should not be going to those who export both jobs and wood to Canada when so many Maine loggers are out of work.

It is a travesty that we can't enact legislation in Maine to make jobs for Maine people.

**Rep. John L. Martin**  
*Eagle Lake*

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## Logging jobs for Mainers

The Bangor Daily News published a story on April 12 by Kevin Miller, "Senate nixes penalties for hiring Canadian loggers," on the debate in the Maine Senate on a bill to prohibit landowners who use foreign laborers in their harvesting operations from taking advantage of Maine's popular Tree Growth Tax relief program (a program I sponsored decades ago to offer sizable tax breaks for land managed for timber). This program was designed to keep Maine jobs in Maine.

The story focused on the Senate debate, but I believe it is crucial that your readers know what happened on the House floor the following day when this bill was debated. Republicans in the Maine House voted against the measure. They sent a strong message to loggers in the Maine woods: Your jobs should go to Canadians. In fact, Republican Rep. Peter Rioux of Winterport stood up in the House Chamber and said, "Employers favor Canadian workers

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