



**Testimony of
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Before the Committee on Transportation in Support of LD 318 – Resolve, to Designate the Route 170 Bridge Located in Webster Plantation the Gary “Swampy” Worster Memorial Bridge

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Senator Chipman, Representative Williams and members of the Committee on Transportation, my name is Dana Doran, and I am the Executive Director of the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine. The Professional Logging Contractors of Maine (PLC) is the voice of Maine’s logging and trucking industry. The PLC was formed in 1995 to represent independent contractors in a rapidly changing forest industry.

As of 2017, logging and trucking contractors in Maine employed over 3,900 people directly and were indirectly responsible for the creation of an additional 5,400 jobs. This employment and the investments that contractors make contributed \$620 million to the state’s economy. Our membership, which includes 200 contractor members and an additional 120 associate members, employs over half of the individuals who work in this industry and is also responsible for 80% of Maine’s annual timber harvest.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of our membership in support of LD 318 – Resolve, to Designate the Route 170 Bridge Located in Webster Plantation the Gary “Swampy” Worster Memorial Bridge. I would also like to thank Senator Stewart for introducing this bill to honor the life and memory of a remarkable individual.

Gary “Swampy” Worster, is the late husband of Hollie Raymond Worster of Lee, Maine. Hollie is the Vice President of PLC Member, T. Raymond Forest Products, a full-service logging, and trucking company that has been in business since 1977, employees 21 hardworking individuals in the forests of DownEast Maine.

After graduating from Lee Academy in the late 1980’s, Swampy joined the team of PLC Member, Thompson Trucking, where he was a dedicated employee for the next thirty years. Swampy was also a loyal husband and friend and had a true zest for life. He loved his family, especially his wife, Hollie, and his friends. He was a true son of Maine and could often be found hunting, fishing from the bridge this bill would rename, and on occasion, throwing, “one hell of a party”.

It was impossible to not be influenced by Swampy’s bright smile, his contagious laugh, and kind heart. It’s these qualities we remember the most from the times he played in the PLC’s Log A Load for Kids Golf Tournament, where he contributed year after year to help kids in the neonatal intensive care unit at Northern Light Eastern Maine Healthcare. The 2022 Tournament was named in his honor.

It is fitting that this bridge will also be named in his honor and we are hopeful that the Committee will support this Resolve. Every time someone passes over this bridge or fishes from its railing, folks will think of Swampy and all the good he did for everyone in his life.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the opinion of our membership before you today and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.