



Maine Municipal  
Association

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To: Municipal Assessors

From: Kate Dufour, Director, MMA State and Federal Relations

Date: Tuesday, August, 31, 2021

RE: Comments on Proposed Forest Carbon Reduction Task Force

The Forest Carbon Reduction Task Force created by Governor Janet Mills is seeking assessor input on its proposed recommendations to develop a voluntary program for small-to-medium size woodland owners in Maine who want to utilize their land for long-term storage of carbon, a process known as carbon sequestration.

Of greatest interest to municipalities are the recommendations pertaining to the Open Space Current Use Program, which is described on pages 15 to 17 of the [report](#) and excerpted in this [document](#). The recommendations include providing greater incentives to landowners, as well as state reimbursement to municipalities to account for a portion of the lost property tax revenues. The full report is provided in the first hyperlink.

The task force's co-chairs, Amanda Beal, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Thomas Abello, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor, are seeking your feedback on the open space program related recommendations.

Specifically, they are interested in learning:

- 1) Which recommendations seem particularly promising to you?
- 2) What is missing?
- 3) Do any of these recommendations concern you, and if so, why?

Because it is important that the task force hears the municipal perspective, I urge you to provide additional comments that may impact the task force's recommendations.

To that end, comments must be submitted to [tom.gordon@maine.gov](mailto:tom.gordon@maine.gov) by Sept. 17, 2021. If you do participate in this request, please consider sharing a copy of your comments with me at [kdufour@memun.org](mailto:kdufour@memun.org). The feedback you provide will assist our advocacy efforts.

For more information about the Maine Forest Carbon Task Force's work to date, please go to <https://www.maine.gov/future/initiatives/climate/climate-council/forest-carbon-taskforce>.

Thank you for considering this opportunity. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email me or call at 1-800-452-8786.