

STATE OF MAINE
SAGADAHOC, SS.

BUSINESS AND CONSUMER COURT
Location: West Bath
DOCKET NO. BCD-WB-AP 09-37

FOREST ECOLOGY NETWORK, *et al*,

Petitioners

v.

LAND USE REGULATION
COMMISSION,

Respondent

And

PLUM CREEK MAINE TIMBERLANDS,
LLC., PLUM CREEK LAND COMPANY,
et al,

Intervenor

AFFIDAVIT OF ALEXANDRA CONOVER
BENNETT

I, Alexandra Conover Bennett, being first duly sworn, depose and say as follows:

1. My name is Alexandra Conover Bennett.
2. I have been a supporter and activist of the Natural Resources Council of Maine ("NRCM") for decades. I have been a member of NRCM since May, 2009.
3. I am a citizen, domiciliary, voter and property owner of the State of Maine, County of Piscataquis.
4. I currently reside at 1493 Elliottsville Road, Elliottsville Township, Maine 04443-8008. I own property in Willimantic, Maine. My partner, Garrett Conover, and I have operated North Woods Ways, a wilderness guiding business for over 30 years. Our business has led trips throughout the North Woods, including the Moosehead Lake region.
5. Since 1978, I have worked as a wilderness guide in Maine's North Woods, which includes the Moosehead Lake region. Specifically, I have organized and guided both my U. S. and international clients on canoeing, fishing, camping and snowshoeing trips on Moosehead Lake, the Sebcoomook area on the northwest side of Moosehead Lake, The West Branch of the Penobscot north of Moosehead Lake, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail including areas on Long and Brassua Lakes, the Indian Pond area west of Moosehead Lake, Wilson Stream in Elliottsville south of Moosehead Lake, Borestone Mountain south of Moosehead Lake and through out much of the lands contiguous to Moosehead Lake. These trips were on land owned by Plum Creek or on lands that are near lands owned by Plum Creek that are included

in the Concept Plan approved by LURC.

6. The Moosehead Lake Region offers a unique, remote canoeing, fishing, camping and snowshoeing experience in the northeast, with opportunities for multi-day adventures without seeing any development, for fishing for wild eastern brook trout, lake trout, blue back trout, landlocked salmon and smallmouth bass, and for snowshoeing in areas where the only other tracks and signs of life are from deer, moose, lynx, and other wildlife.
7. Unfortunately, since the approval of Plum Creek's Concept Plan, my work as a guide has not been the same, and will be adversely impacted by the rezoning and new land use plan and land use standards that were approved as part of the Plum Creek Concept Plan. The Concept Plan approves an unprecedented scope and intensity of development, much of it located in the wrong places and at an undue level or intensity. Approval of the Plum Creek Concept Plan also has landscape-scale adverse impact on this region of Maine, where I have been a wilderness guide and recreational user for over 30 years.
8. Many of my clients come to the Moosehead Lake Region because of its reputation of being remote and untouched by any prospects of development that has an undue adverse impact on the natural resources and natural character of the region. They come to the Region because of those core values identified in the LURC comprehensive land use plan – to enjoy “the diverse, abundant and unique high-value natural resources and features, including lakes, rivers and other water resources, fish and wildlife resources, ecological values, scenic and cultural resources” and, generally, to experience “the uniqueness of a vast forested area that is largely undeveloped and remote from population centers.” Maine Land Use Regulation CLUP at 114 (1997). This is no longer true now that Plum Creek will start its large scale development at any time, based upon approval of the rezoning petition and concept plan.
9. Because the approval of Plum Creek's Concept Plan has been widely publicized, my clients' concerns caused by the approval of Plum Creek's concept plan have directly impacted my occupation as a guide in the Region. It will not be the same experience for me as a guide, and will not be the same experience for my clients. I am impacted both personally and economically. My clients can no longer get what they expect from the wilderness expeditions in the Moosehead Lake Region, because the approval of the Concept Plan has an undue adverse impact on the core scenic and unique natural resource values of the region.
10. The moment Plum Creek's concept plan was approved, the Moosehead Lake Region changed. It changed for me, a person who took great pride in working in one of the few remaining undeveloped forests in the northeast. It also changed for my clients who now anticipate Plum Creek will unleash its massive development, since new zoning and new land use plans are in place with the approval, to allow that to happen.
11. Being a wilderness guide, I know first-hand how unique the Moosehead Lake Region is. My clients know that as well, and that is why they like canoeing, fishing, camping and snowshoeing in the Region. I also know—and so do my clients—that now that Plum Creek's massive concept plan has been approved, it is only a question of time before there will be construction equipment, increased human presence, more trash, less undeveloped forest,

more water pollution, degraded wildlife habitat, and threatened or extirpated fish and game populations.

12. In addition to my work as a guide, I personally use the Moosehead Lake Region for recreational purposes. I canoe, hike, fish, hunt, camp and snowshoe throughout the region, including on Moosehead and Brassua Lakes, Long, Indian, Prong and Upper Wilson Pond, Roach, Indian Stream, and Wilson Stream and its tributaries. The undeveloped character of the region is key to my recreational experience. My experience of the region has already been adversely impacted by the knowledge that the approved Concept Plan will allow huge amounts of development in many places that are inappropriate, including Burgess Stream in Lily Bay, an important wild brook trout stream in the middle of the approved resort zone.
13. I have no doubt that once these changes start to occur, there is no way back—the Region will never be the same.
14. The Natural Resources Council of Maine (“NRCM”) is an organization that has for decades and continues to effectively advocate for my personal and pecuniary rights as a wilderness guide and recreational user of the region, and which advocates for these rights in the present appeal of LURC’s approval of the Plum Creek Concept Plan. I know that I am also not alone. NRCM works to protect the rights and interests of thousands upon thousands of others who share the personal or pecuniary impacts from the rezoning that took place in the region upon approval of the concept plan, and the new land uses and new land use standards that have been put in place with that rezoning. Many of my clients, both U.S. and International, have joined NRCM so that NRCM can be their “voice” to keep wild places untrammled. I depend upon NRCM to be my voice when I am out guiding and cannot get to hearings and to represent my interests professionally and effectively from their fifty years of advocacy in Maine.

Dated:

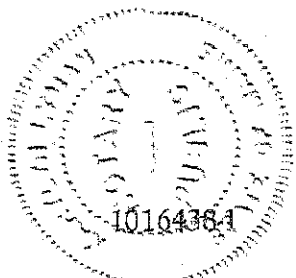
Alexandra Conover Bennett
Alexandra Conover Bennett

STATE OF MAINE
Piscataquis, ss.

February 17, 2011

Personally appeared the above-named Alexandra Conover Bennett and took the oath that the foregoing Affidavit signed by her is true to her own personal knowledge and that, to the extent that matters are asserted therein on information and belief, he believes such information to be true.

Before me,



[Signature]
Notary Public 11-15-2013