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JOINT RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT MAINE'S MAPLE SYRUP AND HONEY PRODUCERS

WHEREAS, Maine is known for its natural and wholesome foods and is the 3rd largest producer of maple syrup in the United States, producing over \$20,000,000 of maple syrup in 2017, and produces over \$2,000,000 of honey annually; and

WHEREAS, the pure honey and maple syrup industries have worked diligently to educate consumers about the value and purity of their products as a result of the introduction of similarly identified but inferior products into the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, product labels that clearly describe the contents of containers at the point of sale are the most direct message available to consumers; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has released a proposed rule that would require that honey and maple syrup be labeled as containing "added sugar" even when these products are 100% pure single-ingredient products; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the "added sugar" declaration to single-ingredient products like honey and maple syrup, to which no sugar has been added, will result in consumer confusion and may erode consumer confidence; and

WHEREAS, a requirement to declare "added sugar" would compromise the integrity of naturally sweet single-ingredient products and would have an irrevocably negative impact on the Maine maple syrup and honey industries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the Second Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to support the United States Food and Drug Administration's efforts at clear labeling to support the consumer's ability to make informed purchasing decisions but recommend that the United States Food and Drug Administration exempt pure maple syrup and honey from its proposed rule; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to Dr. Scott Gottlieb, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and to all members of the Maine Congressional Delegation.