

STATE OF MAINE

—
**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN**
—

**JOINT RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE MULTIFACETED
AGRICULTURE OF MAINE**

WHEREAS, recent statistics show that farming in Maine has grown, and Maine continues to lead the New England states with 8,174 farms; the value of Maine's crops and livestock grew 24% over the past 5 years; and

WHEREAS, Maine's agricultural enterprises provide more than \$764 million through the sale of farm products and contribute more than \$2 billion annually to the State's economy, and Maine agricultural products are increasingly available locally in farmers' markets, schools and institutions; and

WHEREAS, Maine farmers are the stewards of 1.45 million acres of land, a vital resource in maintaining Maine's rural economy; and

WHEREAS, Maine is a world leader in the production of wild blueberries and brown eggs, third in the Nation in the production of maple syrup, eighth in the Nation in the production of fall potatoes, first in New England in the production of food, first in New England in the value of aquaculture sales, second in New England in milk and livestock production, and is the fastest-growing artisanal cheese-producing state in the country and is the only state involved in the commercial production of fiddleheads; and

WHEREAS, agriculture has always been a part of Maine's prosperity, comprising much of Maine's scenic open space, providing recreational opportunities and contributing to the character of Maine's rural communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to honor Maine farmers and innovators who have contributed so much to the betterment of our State, to pledge our support and encouragement and to urge the youth of Maine to pursue the growing opportunities for careers in today's technologically advanced agriculture industry; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, as a token of the esteem in which those in this vital field are held.