

March 8, 2023

Testimony in Opposition of LD 731

Barry W. Norris

Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs

Good afternoon Senator Hickman; Representative Brenner; Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee:

My name is Barry W. Norris. I am the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs. I am here today representing the 26 Agricultural fairs and to speak in opposition to LD 731.

Maine fairs rely heavily on the stipends received through the Agricultural Support Fund. Should LD 731 pass, it would reduce the monies available to the fund by approximately \$21,000. At the present 2022 5% level, the fund received \$26,672. To go to 1%, the fund would receive approximately \$5,334 using the income from ADW.

This bill negatively impacts not only Maine agricultural fairs through the reduction to the support fund; it also negatively impacts our Maine harness racing industry.

Thank for your time today and we urge you to vote the bill out ought not to pass.