Ellen McAdam SPRINGVALE LD 525

LD 525, regarding the protection of farm workers by allowing them to organize for the purposes of collective bargaining, would be a great bill if all food originated in your local grocery store and agricultural workers in Maine were systemically mistreated. Harvest time for anything grown anywhere is critical. If crops are not harvested because a union has decided it is the perfect time to strike for higher wages, it is not only the farmer who loses. Talk about food waste! We offer above minimum wage to find and keep employees. We do not mistreat them. They are too hard to replace. Current laws were written to exclude agricultural employees from some overtime rules and from collective bargaining for good reason. LD 525 has created a problem out of thin air, as far as we are concerned, and has many negative consequences. Please do not advance this bill.