

**LD 2093**  
**An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents**  
**Access Locally Produced Food**

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Senator Ingwarsen, Representative Pluceker, and members of the committee I am Penny Jordan, one of the owners of Jordan's Farm a mixed vegetable farm in Cape Elizabeth and I am here to testify in favor of LD 2093. I present this position because I believe this bill will help continue our work as a state to address food insecurity and at the same time help farms maximize their products by continuing to offer a market for off-grade and excess products.

The programs matched by these dollars help Maine producers participate in programs that distribute their products to food banks, food pantries, and food sites across Maine. I work with several growers to aggregate their products and distribute them through existing distribution systems, such as Wayside Food Programs in Portland which serves over 60 area pantries, Preble Street's Food Security Hub in South Portland which produces and distributes over 2000 meals per day, and the Locker Project in Scarborough that ensures thousands of children have access to healthy local produce and several other pantries.

As a farmer and as a person who is committed to ending hunger in Maine. I have been engaged in hunger prevention for over 20 years. All farms have surplus produce sometimes called food loss (which can be as much as 30%). There are programs that purchase this surplus. Programs such as Good Shepherd Food Banks' Mainers Feed Mainers, Farms for Food Equity, and many others around the state. These programs bring healthy locally produced food to those experiencing hunger and at the same time contribute to the vitality of Maine farms.

The \$1.2 million over two years that will serve as match dollars will help continue programs working to end hunger and ensure Maine farms can maximize the products they grow. My goal as a Maine producer is to feed people and help grow Maine agriculture.

Thank you and I encourage you to vote ought to pass.

Penelope (Penny) Jordan  
Cape Elizabeth  
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