



Written testimony on LD 2093: An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Foods

Presented by the Maine Network of Community Food Councils

To the Distinguished members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,

The Maine Network of Community Food Councils is submitting testimony in support of LD 2093. We are a network of 11 community-based food councils throughout the State of Maine, all working to help create more healthy, just and sustainable local food systems. Much of the work we do is focused on supporting our local farms and improving food access for our neighbors experiencing tough times. This bill is a great step towards both of these goals. Not only does it help expand the benefit to our community members who are currently relying on SNAP, but it also helps to increase the market share for our local farmers. Maine currently imports approximately 90% of the food we consume. Legislation like this is a powerful tool for making local food purchasing a real option for more people.

We ask that you not only vote to pass this bill, but that you add in language to make it permanently funded, so that amazing programs like Maine Harvest Bucks will always be available to our Maine residents and Maine farmers as well. Thank you for your time.

Darcy Cooke

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